Vol.21

ROKUDA NOBORU

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FATHER AND SON

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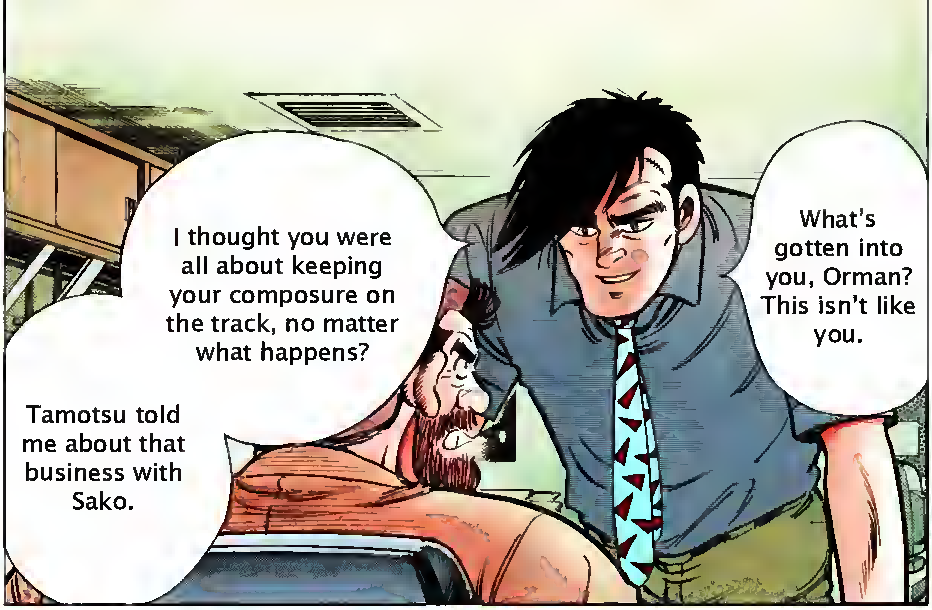
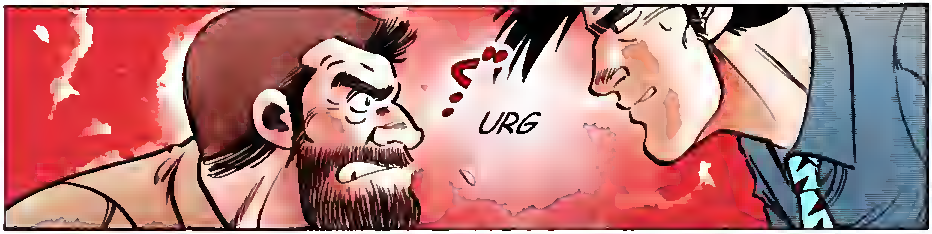
Chapter 1:
Father and Son

We've only got one week before the race at Brands Hatch!
There's no way! He's in no condition to race!
So what, we're just gonna make him pull out? He's at the top of his game!

We'll have to stay put for a while.
We don't have a choice.
So we're just gonna give up!?
He was only on a roll until Hockenheim. Now he's just a wreck!
Give her a lecture?
To do what?
Bring her in here!
Where's Junko!?
Kuroi!
This incident... She must have had her own reasons for it.
...an adult.
It's none of our business.
We can't let her mess with Gunma's mental state at a time like this!
A lecture, a sermon, whatever it takes!
She's ...


What's gotten into you, Orman? This isn't like you.
I thought you were all about keeping your composure on the track, no matter what happens?
Tamotsu told me about that business with Sako.

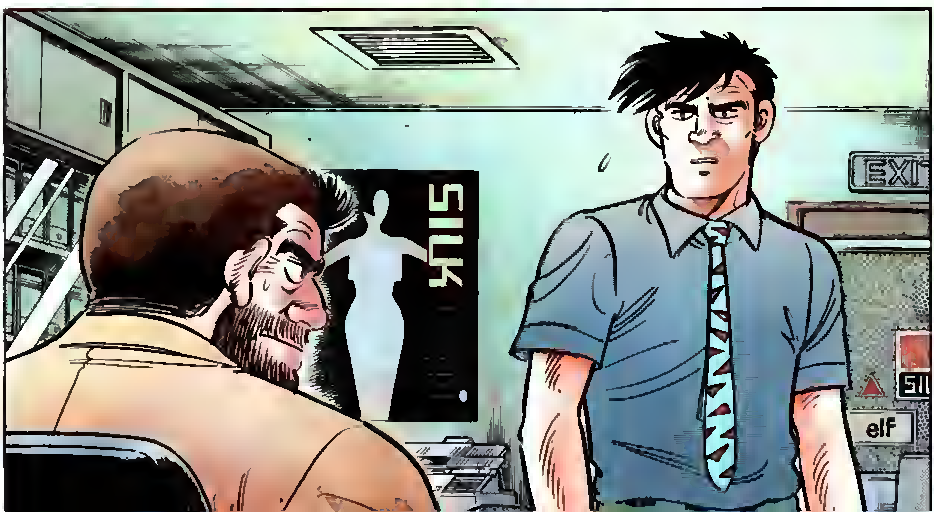

URG

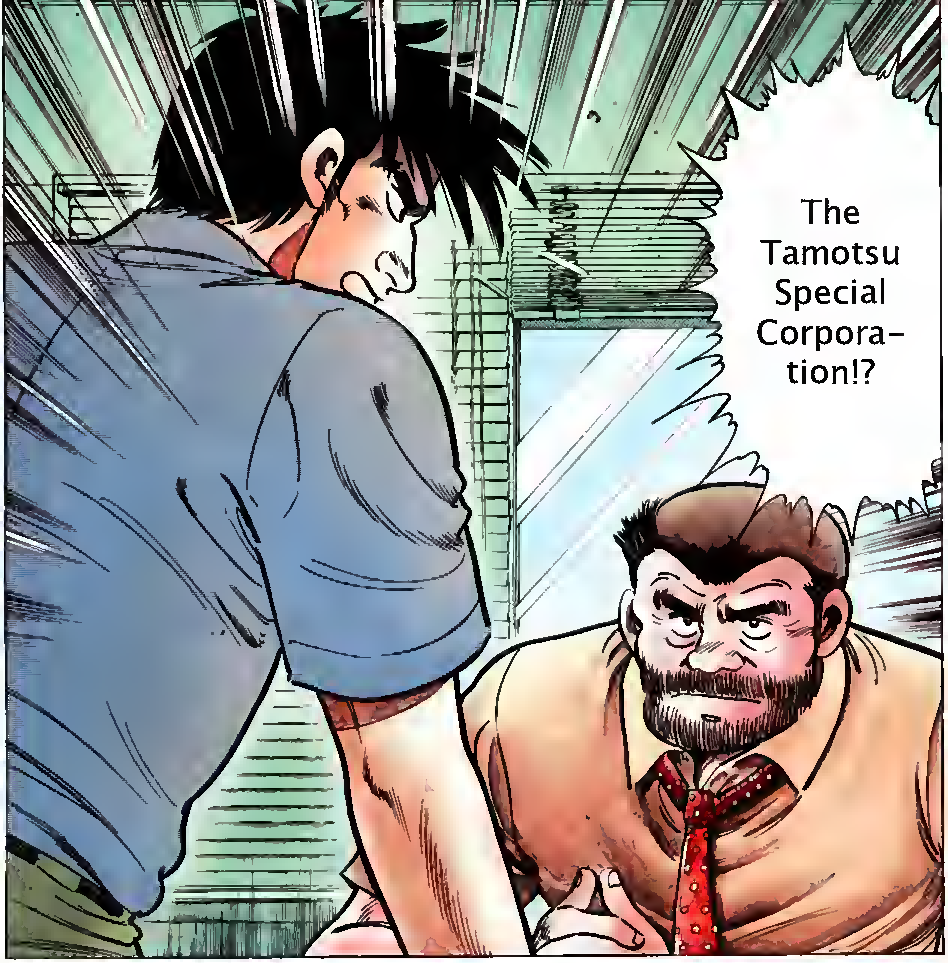
Well... You're right.
The joys and pains of life become fuel for a racer.
It's just that...

I'm talking about F1 here, man!
Next season, he could even get an FIA Super License. Which means...
If you look at his score, he's behind Jesus by only five points. If we can keep this up...
Damn, what a waste...

Which is good, of course. I'd be a little sad to see him go, but what can we do?
If Gunma steps up to F1, that means he can't be in our team anymore.
NGK SPARK PLUGS
No need to rush. He'll make it to F1 eventually.
You got connec-tions with guys like Tyrrell and the guys in Brabham, right?
...that I let you in on my plan.
I guess it's time...
Kuroi...
That's right!
A plan...?
Tamotsu's already a part of it.
?
SUITS

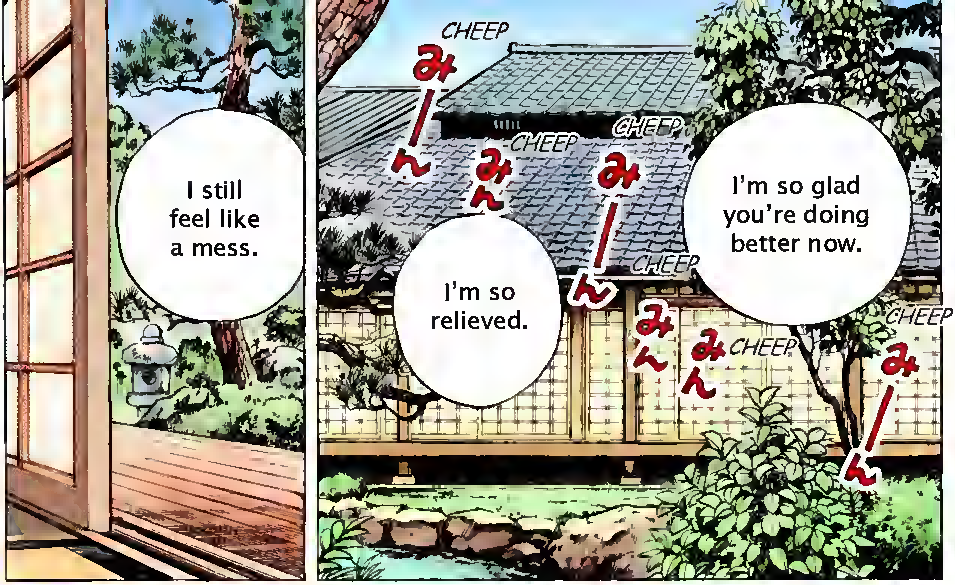
...start a company called the Tamotsu Special Corporation!
We're going to...


SILK
EXI
elf

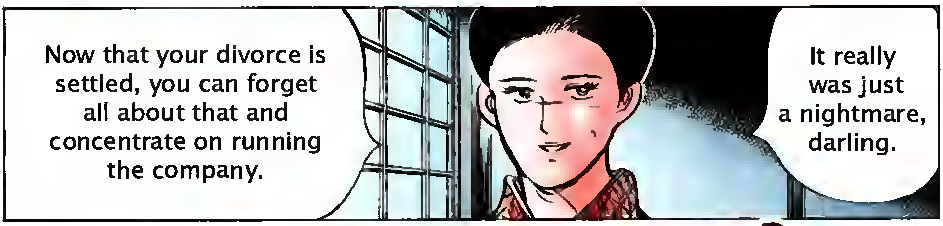

The Tamotsu Special Corpora-tion!?

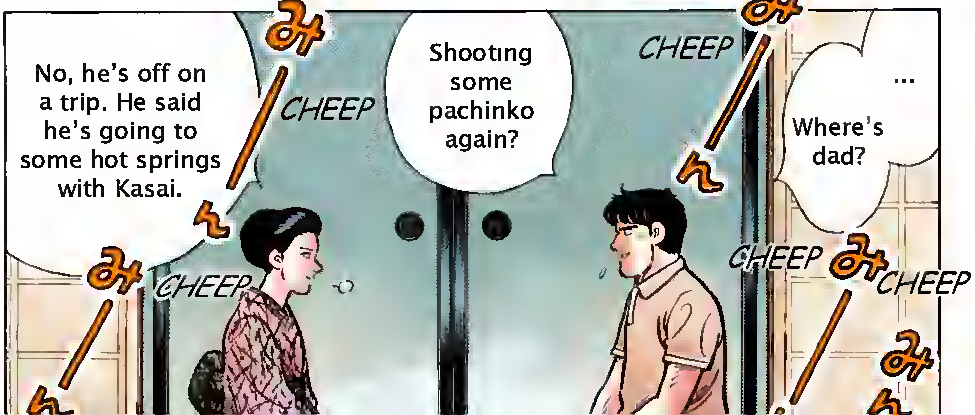
You... You're not actually...
GRIN

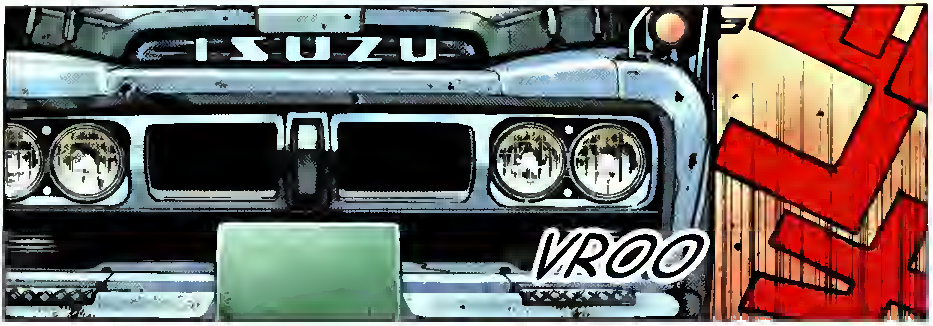
HOONK

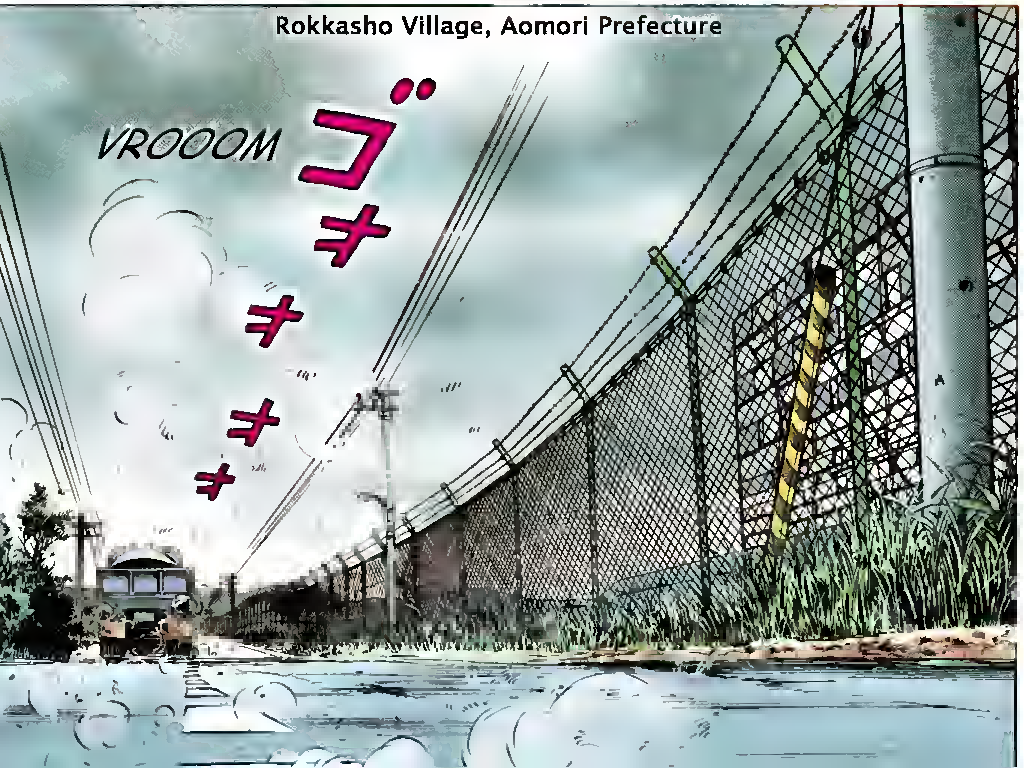

I still feel like a mess.
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
I'm so relieved.
I'm so glad you're doing better now.

I can't seem to shake it off my conscience. I can't think clearly.
It's like all this has been one horrible nightmare.


Now that your divorce is settled, you can forget all about that and concentrate on running the company.
It really was just a nightmare, darling.


No, he's off on a trip. He said he's going to some hot springs with Kasai.
CHEEP
CHEEP
Shooting some pachinko again?
CHEEP
...
Where's dad?
CHEEP
CHEEP


ISUZU
VROO


Rokkasho Village, Aomori Prefecture
VROOOM
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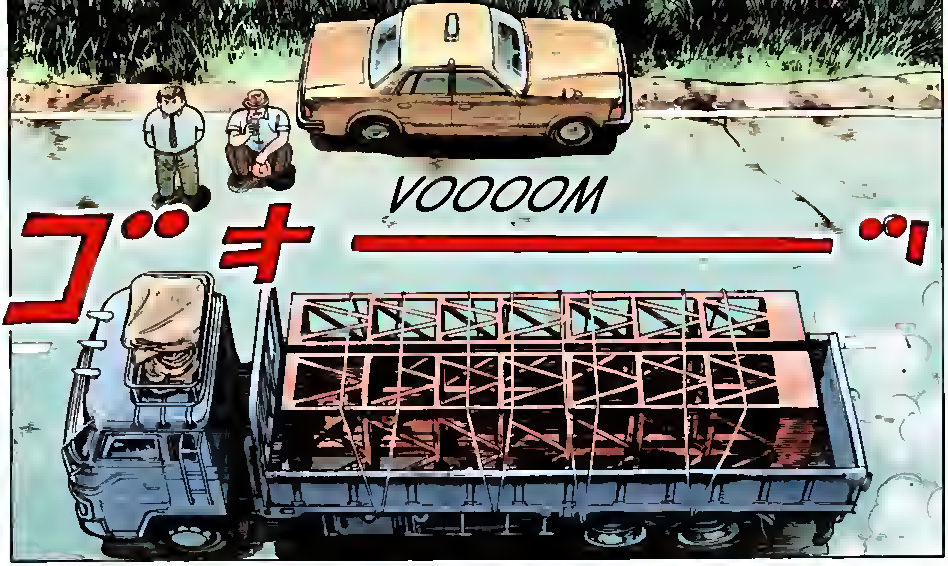
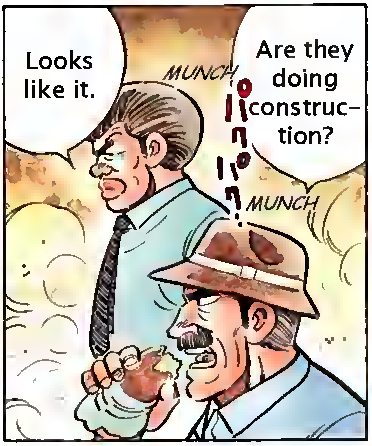

VOOOOM
ゴ゛ォ

I heard that the mayor is against nuclear power.

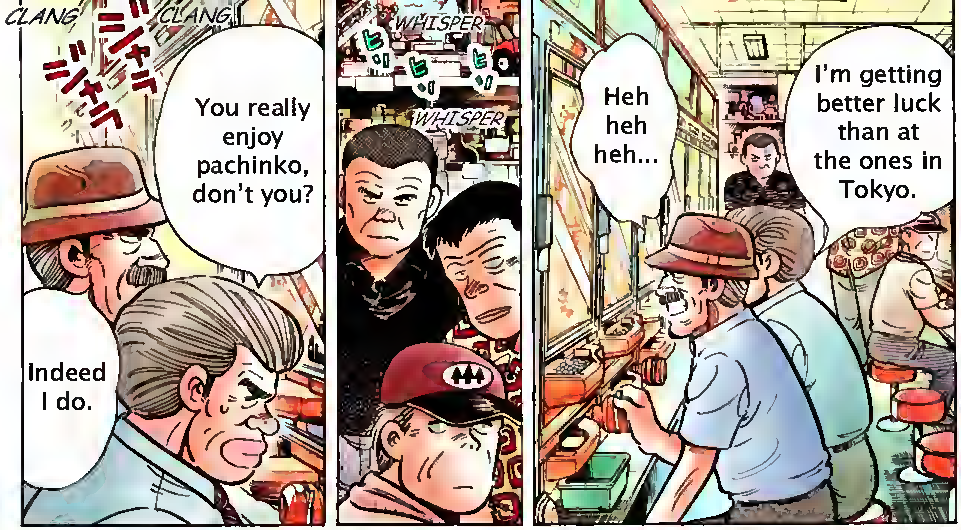

Looks like it.
Are they doing construc-tion?
MUNCH
MUNCH

MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH

PACHINKO

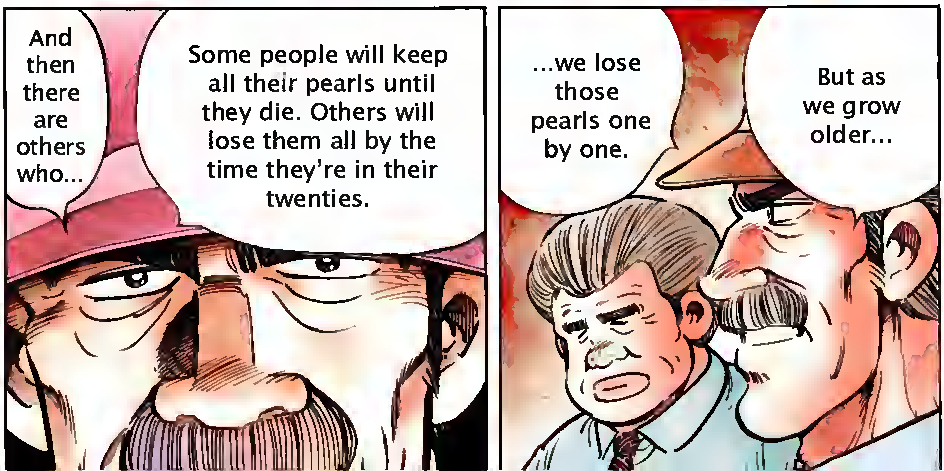
Uh... All right.
Come on!

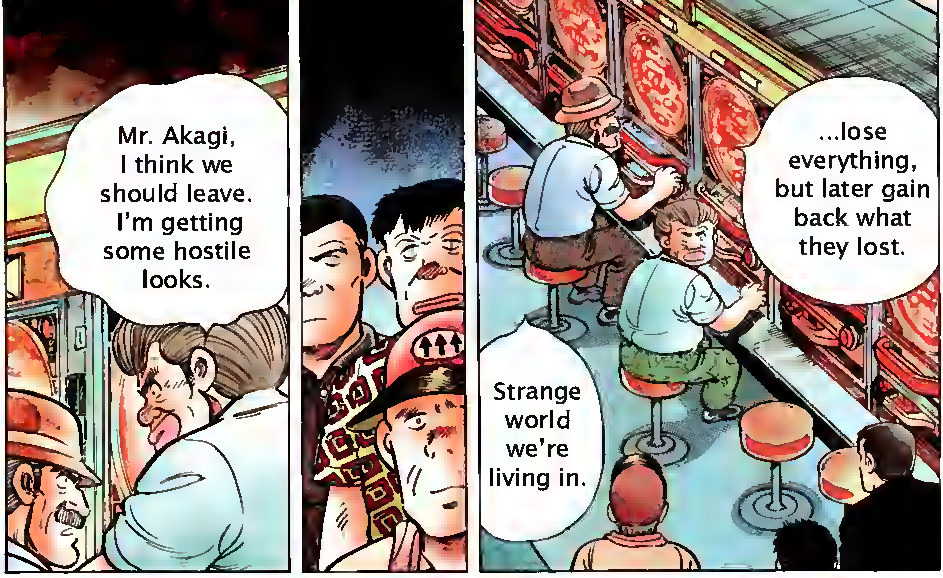
I can hardly breathe out here!
All right, Kasai! Let's hit up that pachin-ko!
Huh?

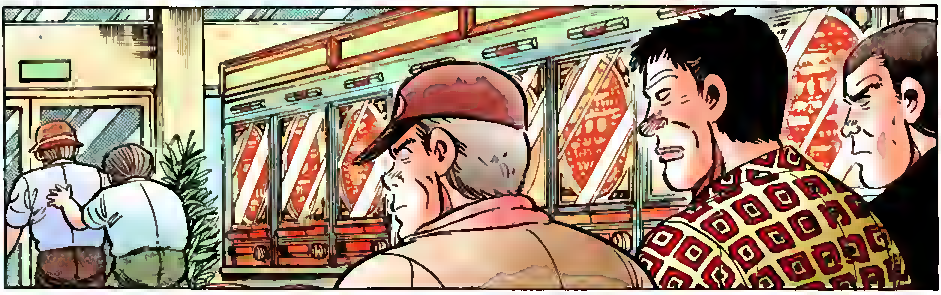

CLANG
CLANG
You really enjoy pachinko, don't you?
Indeed I do.
WHISPER
WHISPER
Heh heh heh...
I'm getting better luck than at the ones in Tokyo.

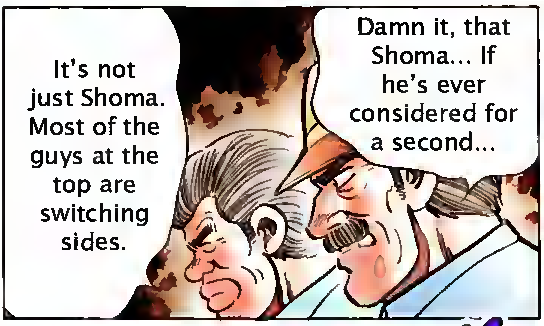
Reminded of... what?
CLINK CLONG
CLING CLONG
When I see all these shiny pachinko balls, I'm reminded of certain things.

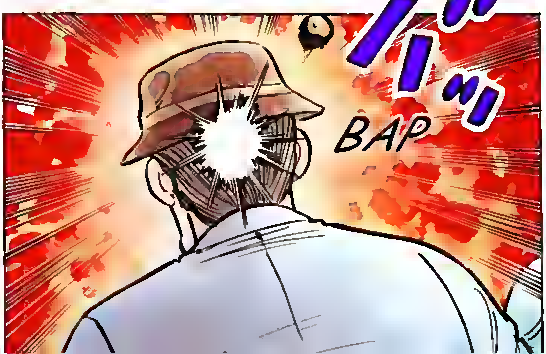
...?
They're precious, luminescent pearls.
...we're given a certain number of shining pearls.
When each one of us is born...


And then there are others who...
Some people will keep all their pearls until they die. Others will lose them all by the time they're in their twenties.
...we lose those pearls one by one.
But as we grow older...

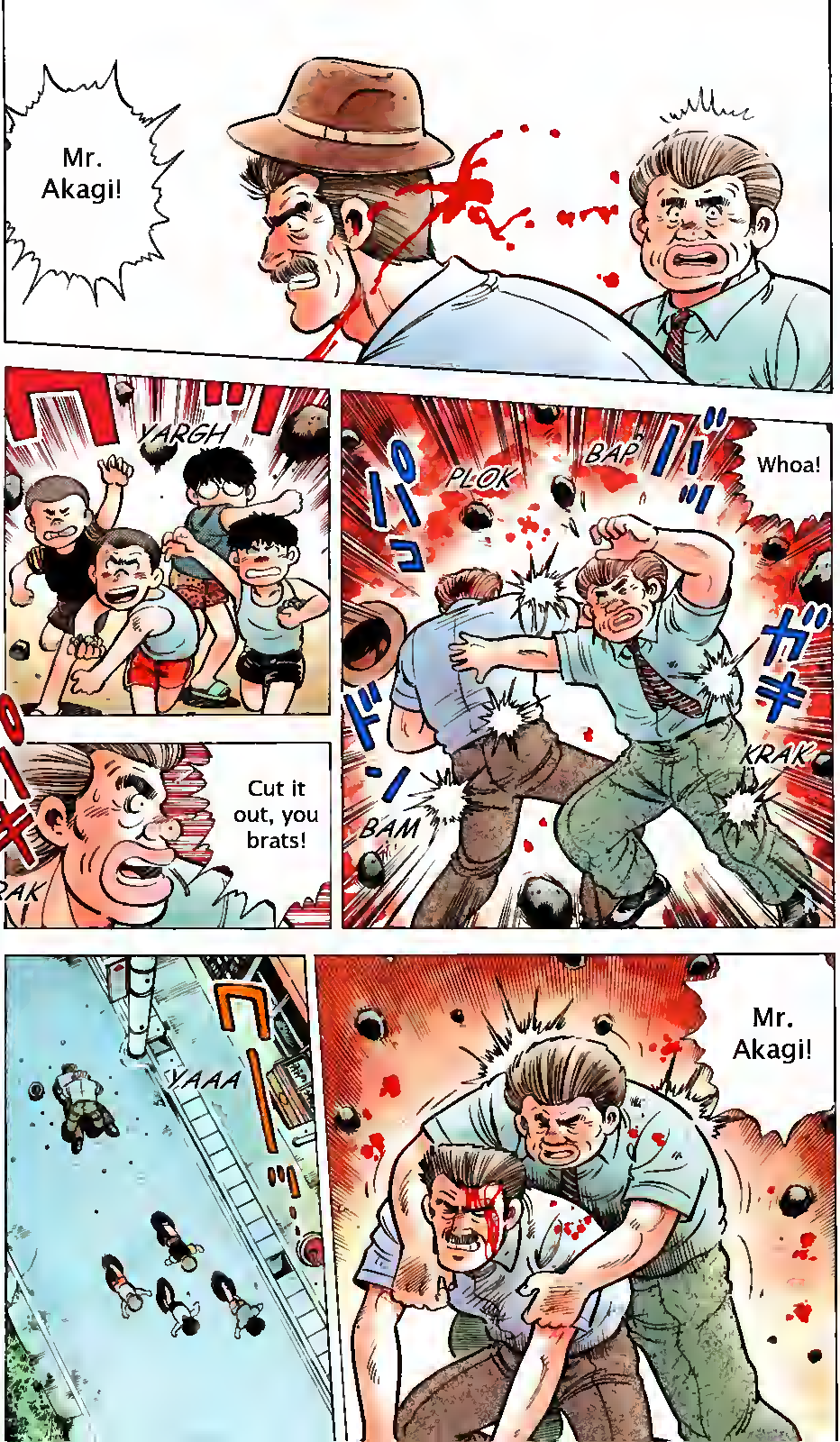

Mr. Akagi, I think we should leave. I'm getting some hostile looks.
Strange world we're living in.
...lose everything, but later gain back what they lost.



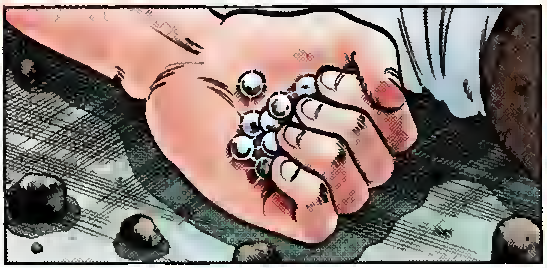

It's not just Shoma. Most of the guys at the top are switching sides.
Damn it, that Shoma... If he's ever considered for a second...

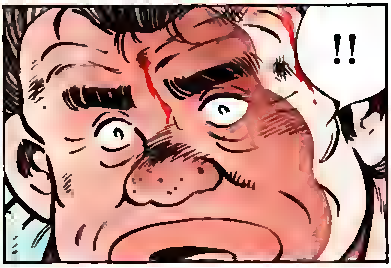

BAP

With this whole relocation project in a stale-mate...
It seems we haven't made a great impression on the towns-folk.


Mr. Akagi!
YARGH
PLOK
BAP
Whoa!
KRAK
BAM
Cut it out, you brats!
KRAK
YAAA
Mr. Akagi!

Mr. Akagi, are you all right? Can you get up?
Damn... For the love of...
...

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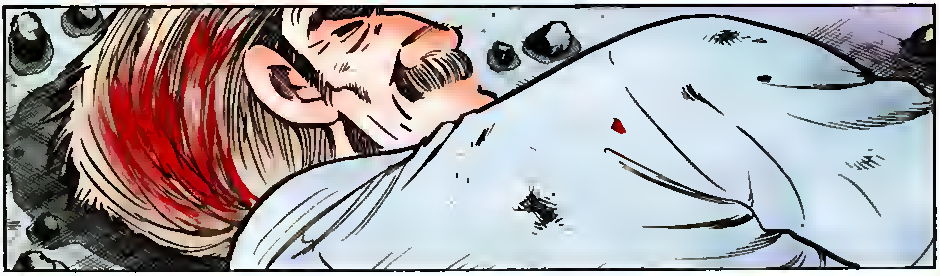

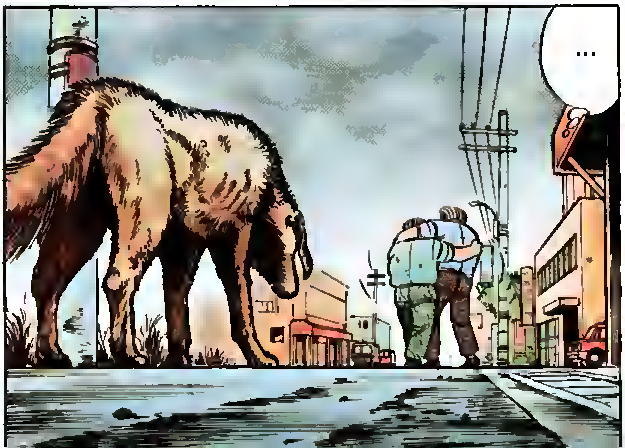
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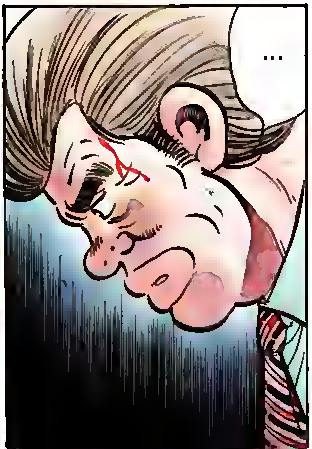
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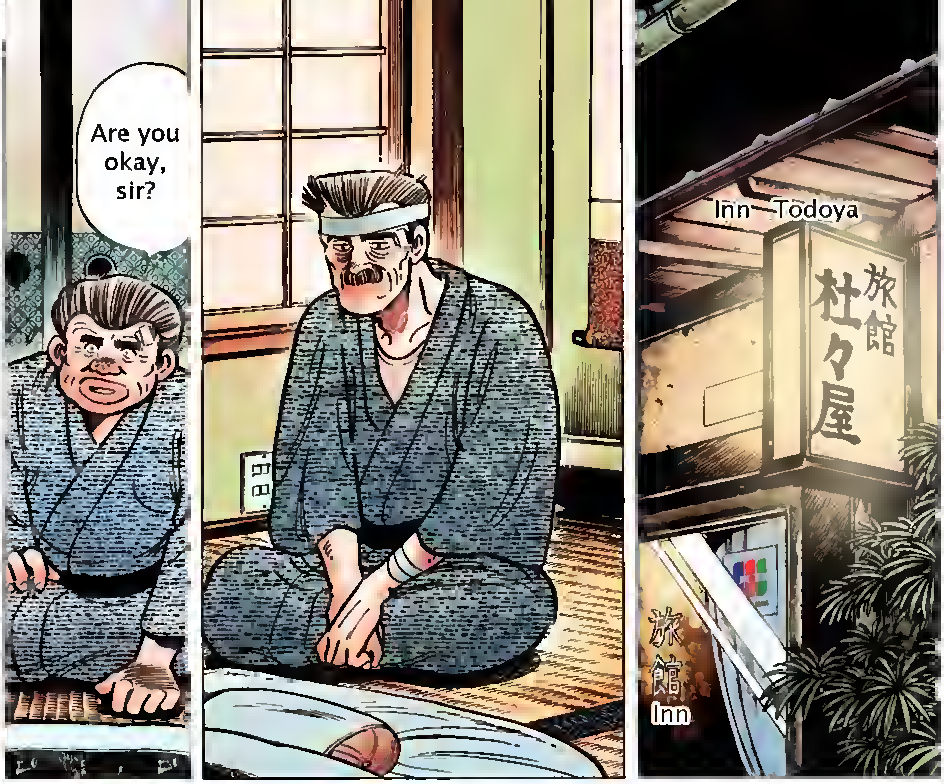
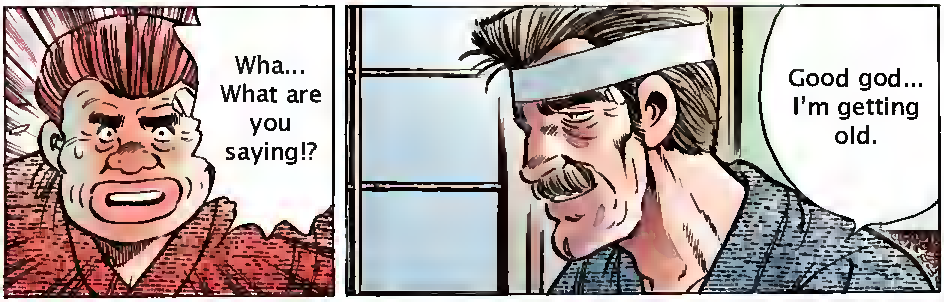
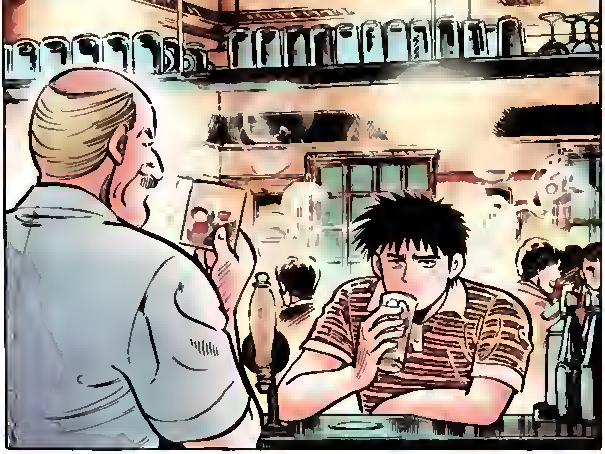
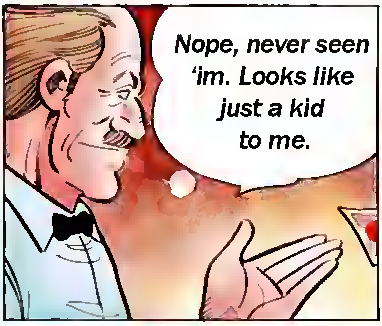

Are you okay, sir?
Inn—Todoya
旅館
杜々屋
旅館
Inn

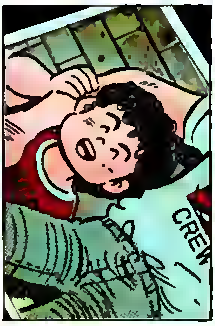

Wha... What are you saying!?
Good god... I'm getting old.

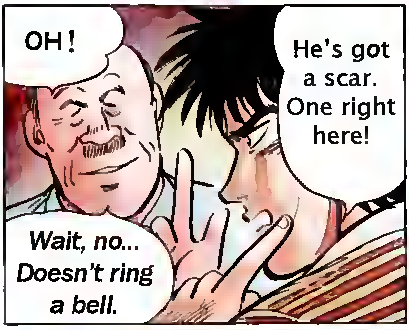
...!?
There's just... one person I must see...
...before I'm completely destroyed.
I mean it. I'm not sure if I'll make it...



The ROYAL OAK

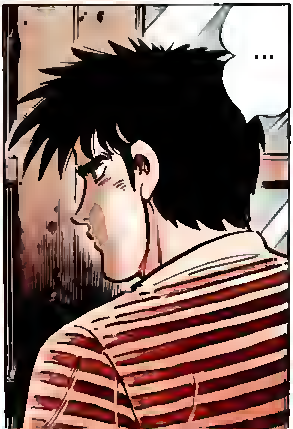

Nope, never seen 'im. Looks like just a kid to me.


CREW


OH!
He's got a scar. One right here!
Wait, no... Doesn't ring a bell.

He's gotten bigger! Big! Unders-tand?
OK OK!

Yeah... Some-thing like that.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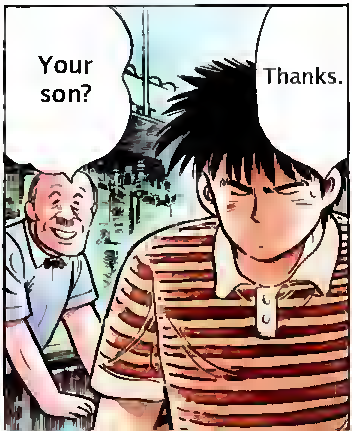
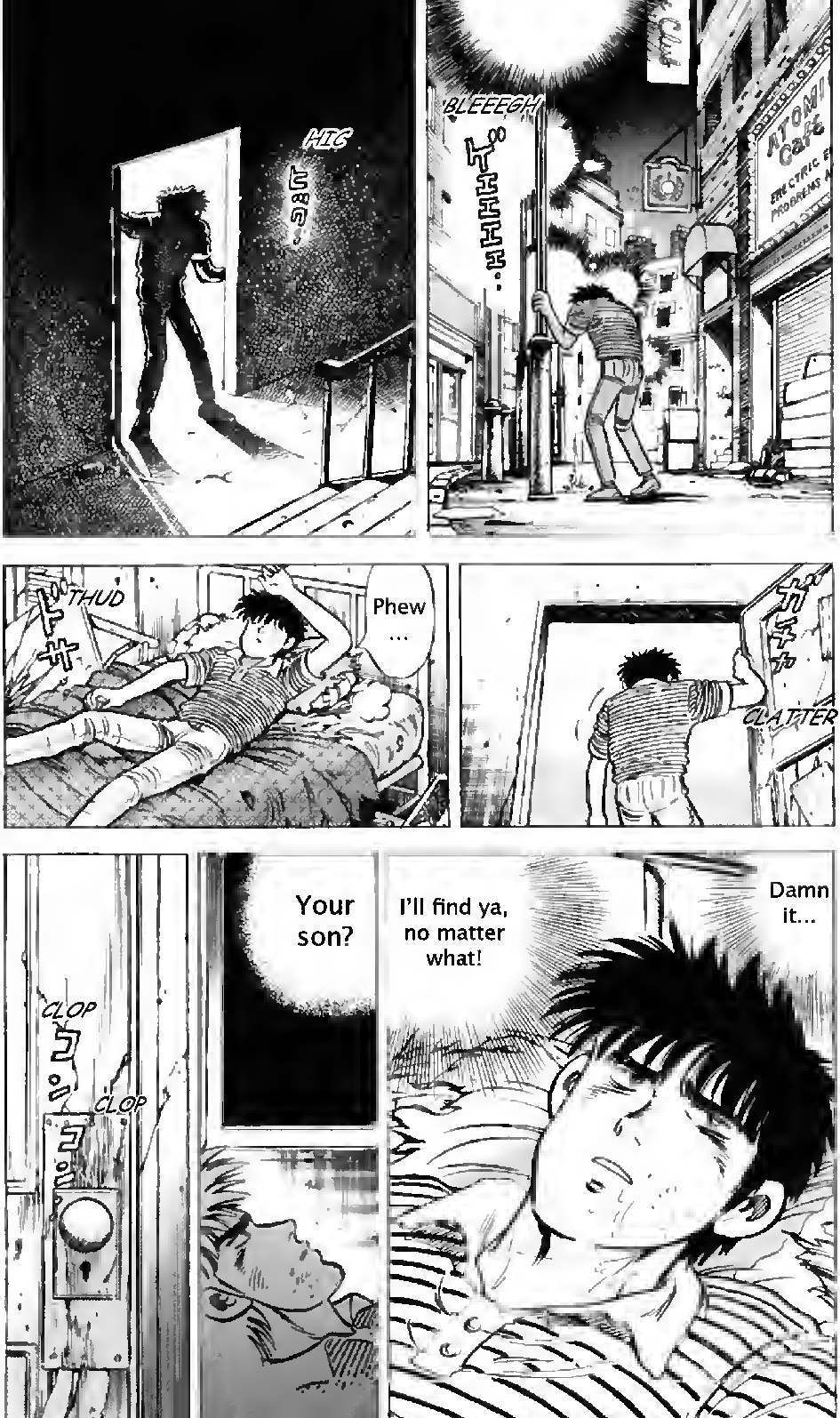
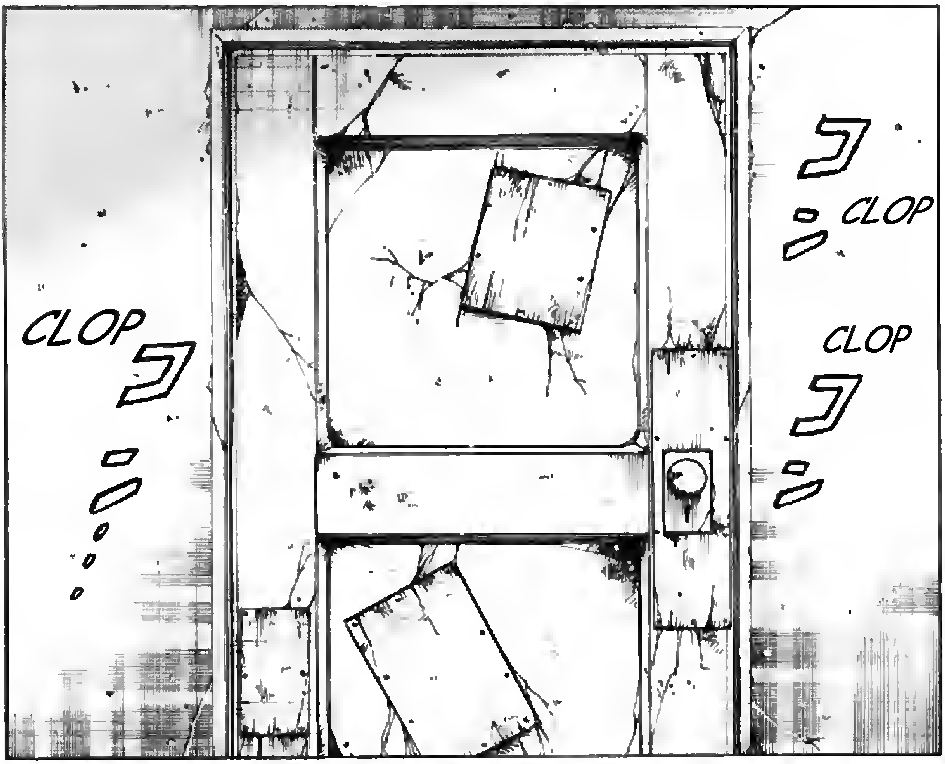

Your son?
Thanks.

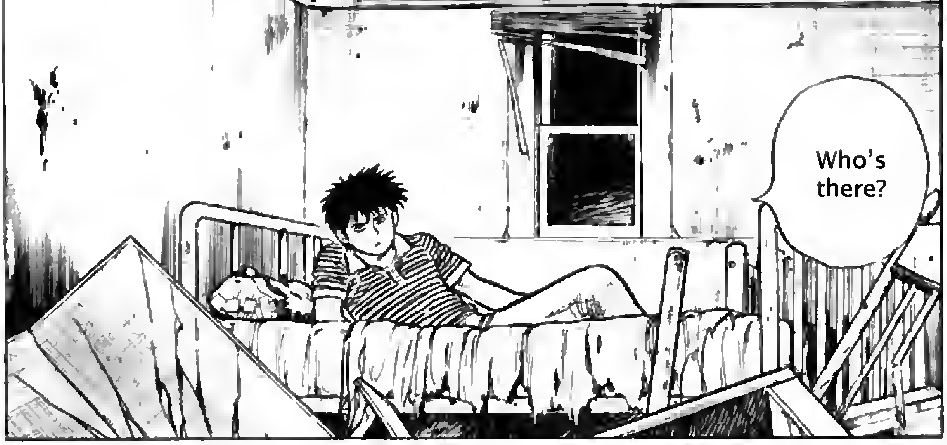

HIC
BLEEEGH
ATOMIC Café
THUD
Phew ...
CLATTER
CLOP
CLOP
Your son?
I'll find ya, no matter what!
Damn it...

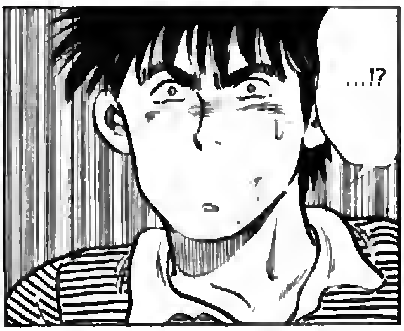
Who is it?
CLOP
CLOP

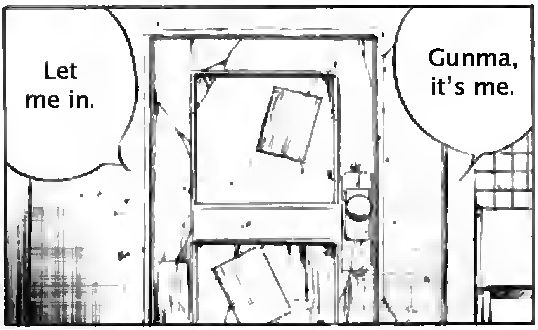

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

...

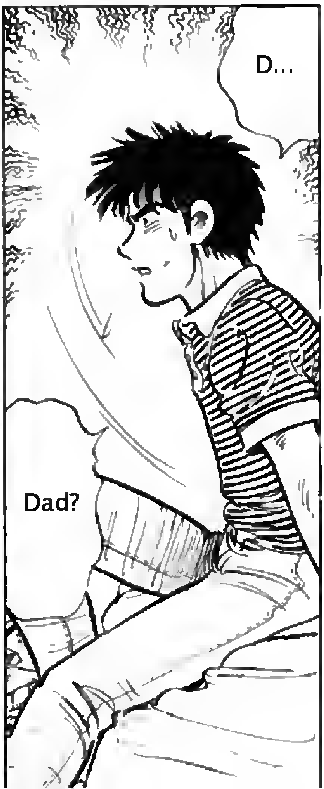
Chapter 2:
Intruders


Who's there?

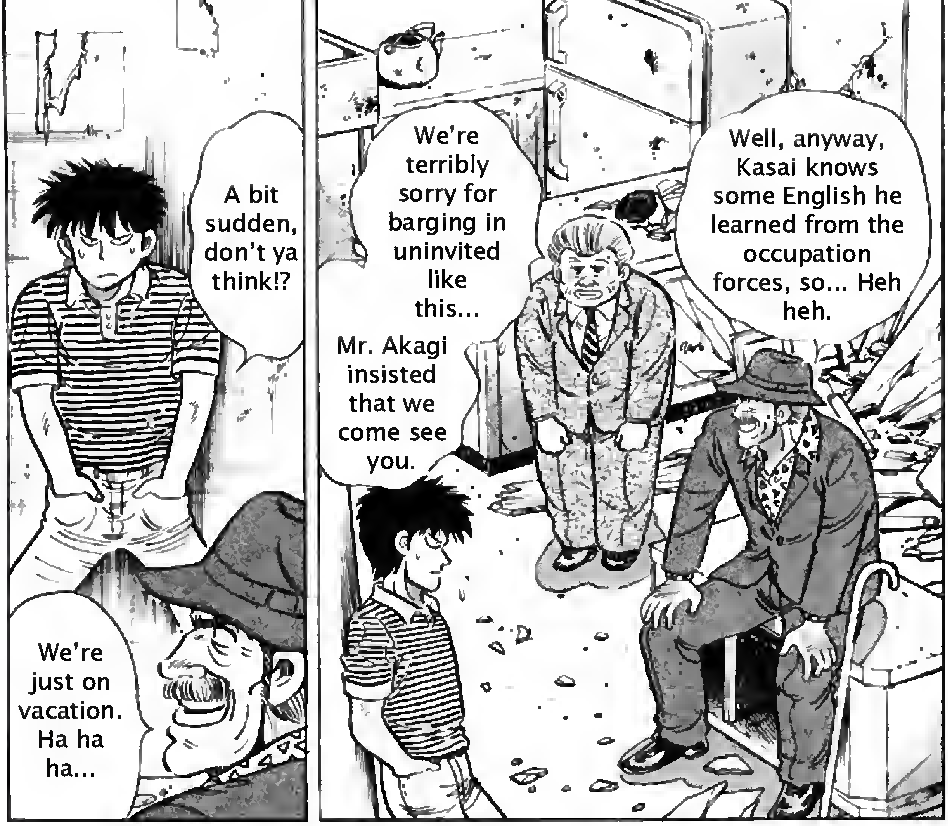

...!?


Let me in.
Gunma, it's me.

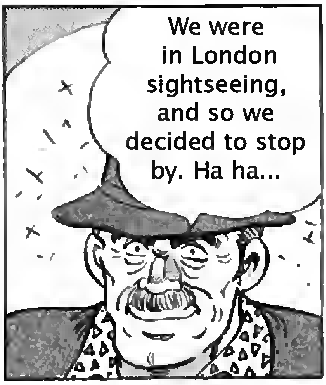
カチャ!
KACHUK

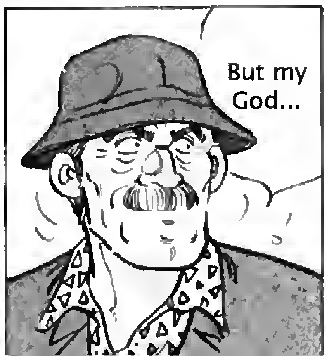

D...
Dad?

Dad...!?
Been a while, son.
Heh.
What the hell...!?
Wha...
I asked Yuma for the address, but...
The taxi driver kept rambling on about something and...
...then we searched and searched.
It was 16 hours from Narita. Got to Heathrow Airport at dawn...
Phew, what a flight.


A bit sudden, don't ya think!?
We're just on vacation. Ha ha ha...
We're terribly sorry for barging in uninvited like this...
Mr. Akagi insisted that we come see you.
Well, anyway, Kasai knows some English he learned from the occupation forces, so... Heh heh.

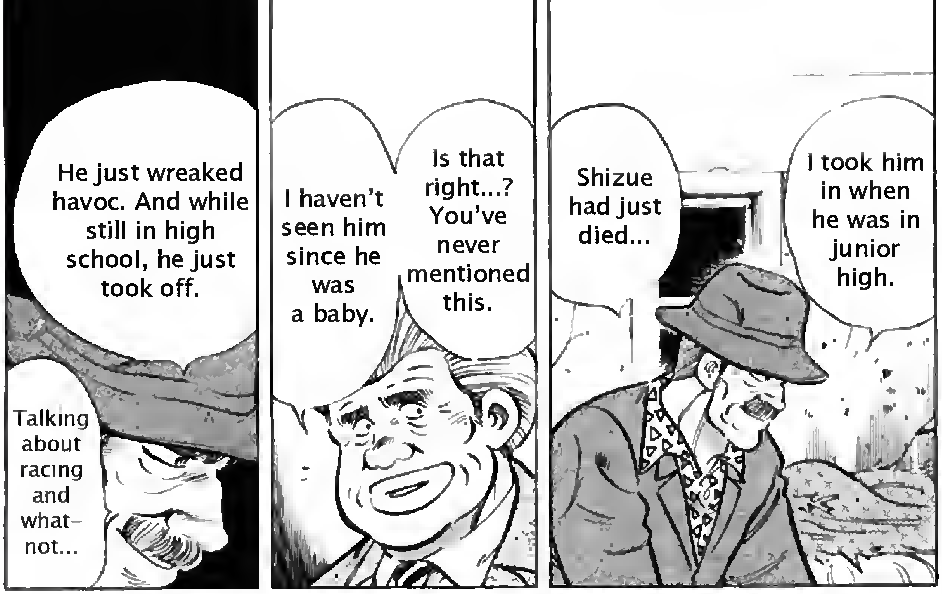
Sir, maybe it's better for us to find a hotel tonight...
It's a total dump!
Look at this place.


We were in London sightseeing, and so we decided to stop by. Ha ha...


But my God...

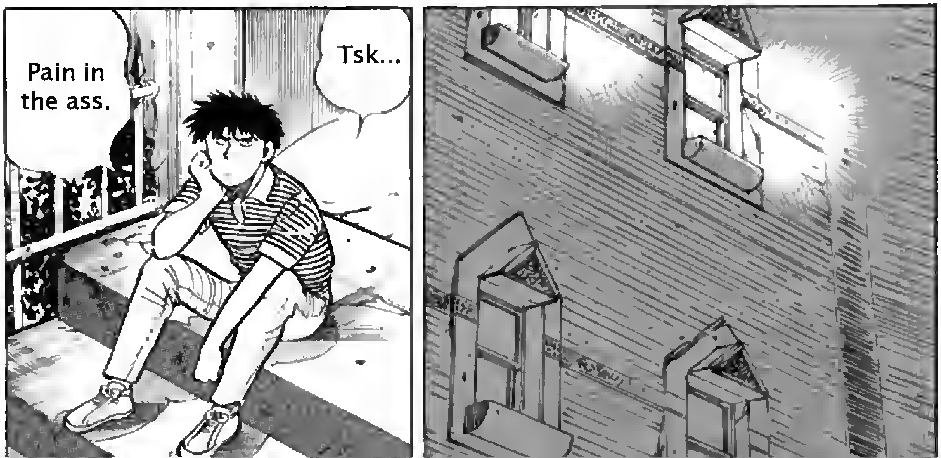
You think you can just barge in, call my place a dump, and demand a place to sleep?
Look, old man...
Sir, I'm not sure if Mr. Gunma...
No. I've done enough for one day. Gunma, fix up a place for me to sleep! I can sleep on the floor even. Just give me a blanket.
Wait here for a second. Let me call someone I know.
Do ya!? Huh!?
...but it's usually not like this!
It looks like a storm just passed through...
Oh, and this room... There's a reason for the mess.
SLAM

No, it's fine. No drinks. Just beds.
There's two of them.
No, no food. Just a place to sleep.
Come on, Orman. Help me out here.
It's my old man. He just showed up out of nowhere.
I'm in a bit of a bind here.
Just showed up without any warning.
He's grown...
You and Shizue's...
So that's Gunma...

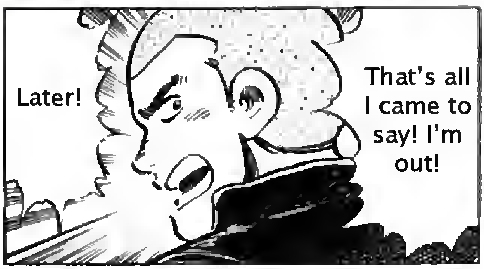

He just wreaked havoc. And while still in high school, he just took off.
Talking about racing and what-not...
I haven't seen him since he was a baby.
Is that right...? You've never mentioned this.
Shizue had just died...
I took him in when he was in junior high.

...he doesn't seem to be doing too well.
...but by the looks of this place...
Looks like he's still at it...

There must be an explanation for this mess.
I wouldn't be so sure. I've heard he's made quite a name for himself. Mr. Yuma mentioned it once.


Pain in the ass.
Tsk...

Yo, you Soichiro Akagi!?
I'm Gunma! Mom's dead!
Damn murderer!
When he was in junior high... He showed up at my door step all of a sudden.
I still remember clearly.


Later!
That's all I came to say! I'm out!

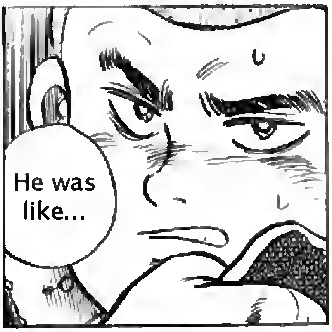
Gunma ...!?
Gu...

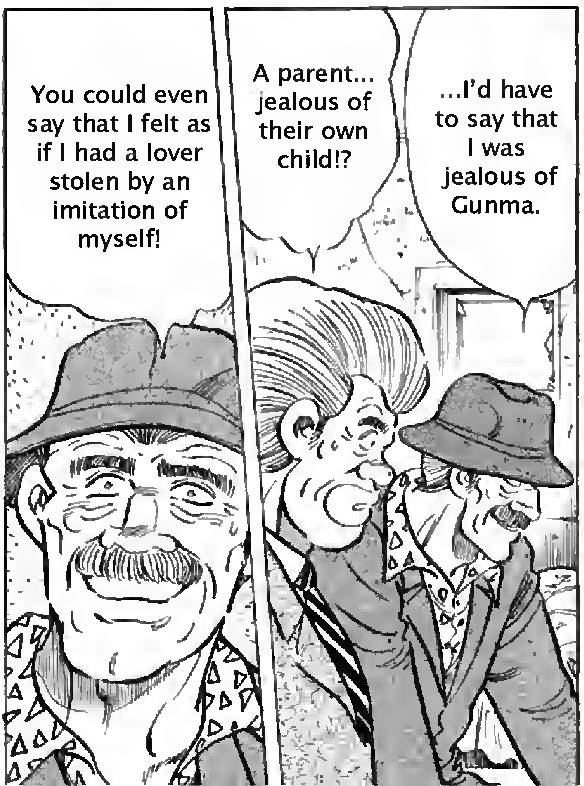
After Shizue gave birth to him... she just disappeared.

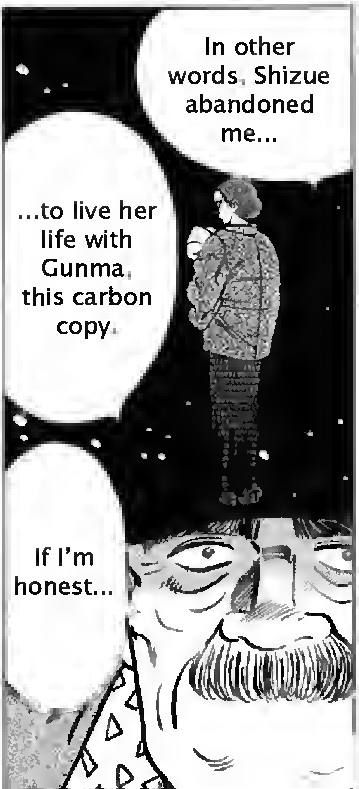
Piss off! You ain't gonna take care of me!
You have a place to go!?
Gunma, hold on. Wait!

Listen here, kid! I'm your father! You stay here and live with us!
I knew that moment why she did that.

...a carbon copy of myself.

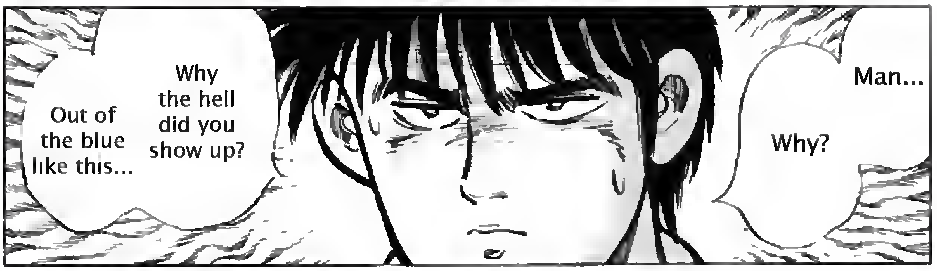

He was like...


You could even say that I felt as if I had a lover stolen by an imitation of myself!
A parent... jealous of their own child!?
...I'd have to say that I was jealous of Gunma.


In other words, Shizue abandoned me...
...to live her life with Gunma, this carbon copy.
If I'm honest...

Sigh... Quite the father and son.
Even me... Every time I saw him, that cheap imitation of myself...
He did finally accept my offer to live in the house, but he hated me and was totally out of control.
...I'd get filled with such rage.
...
Yer ride's here.
Hey, old man.
SLAM

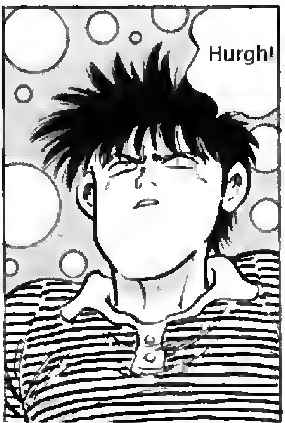
Hey, uhh... Orman. My bad.
Don't mention it!
SLAM
Huh?
What d'ya say, Gunma? This is your chance!
Why don't ya show your daddy some world-class racing?
Just let me worry about that! All right! I got a good feeling about this!
Heh. He ain't gonna be around till then.
VROOO
POKE
What d'ya mean, "Huh"!? I'm talking about Brands Hatch!

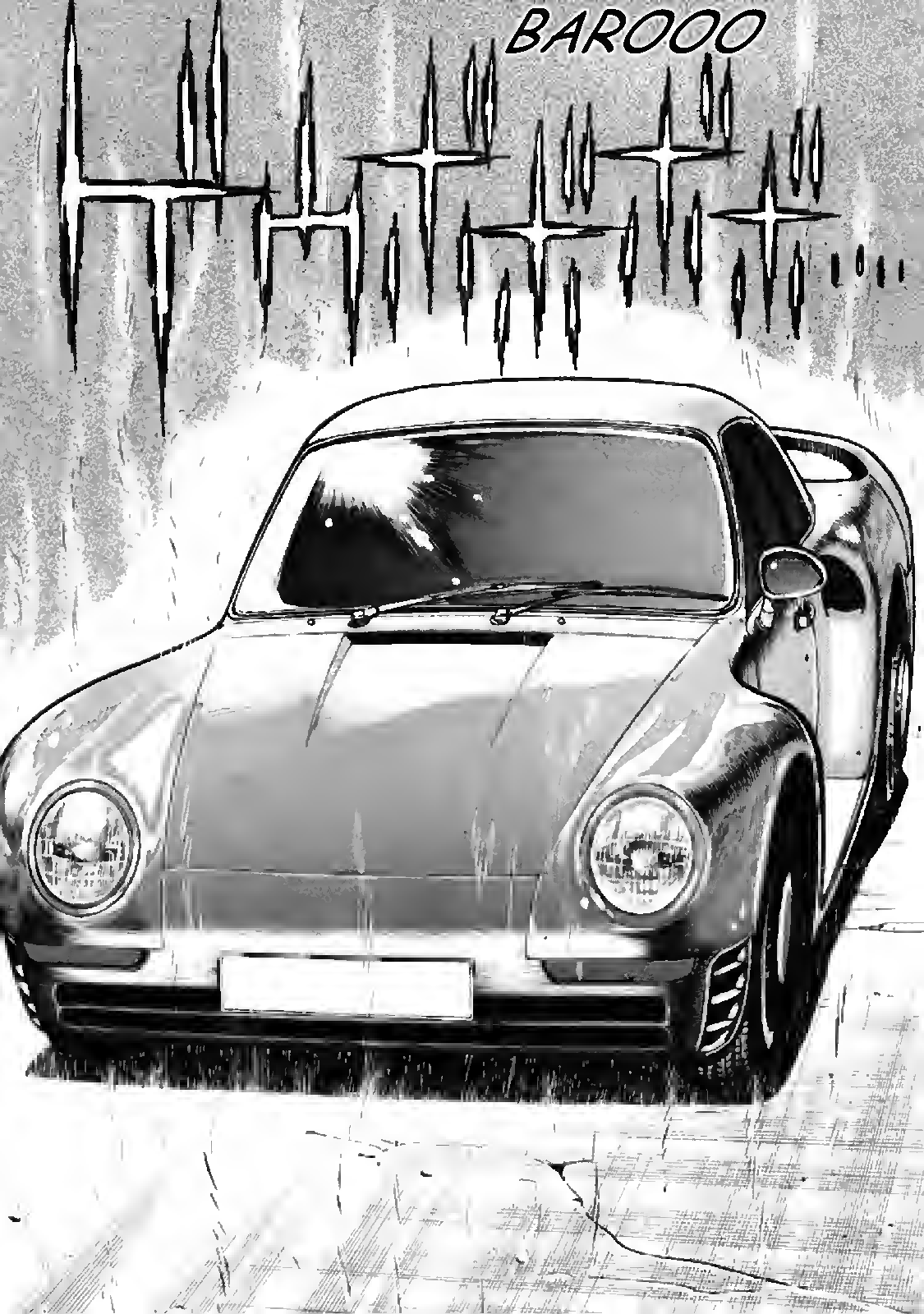

Out of the blue like this...
Why the hell did you show up?
Man...
Why?

It's like...
...he's... just some old geezer!
KRAK.

This is messin' up my game, damn it!
And what the hell happened to him!?

Ow!


Hurgh!


BAROOO

I tried to stop him too.
But he insisted that he goes for a ride.
Take it easy.
What's this about Orman?
Callin' me up this early.
A race car.
Ride what?
Your old man.
SPOOT
Who!?
What!? Are ya kiddin' me!?
I wasn't gonna let him drive it, of course.
So I figured he could sit in the passenger's seat.
I thought about it, and decided to borrow a Porsche from a friend of mine.

Well, that sure looks good on you, sir!
...
I'm serious!
I mean it. This is no joke.
Canon
Shell
No.1
...You...
Gunma, get behind the wheel!
I'm going home!
This is stu-pid!
So drive like a racer, then!
This ain't Disney Land, old man! I don't got time to be your chauffeur!
Idiot! You think this is all fun and games!?
...cheap imita-tion.
You...

I knew it. You're only a cheap imitation.
FORMULA
...the hell did you just say!?
What...

You wouldn't be getting cold feet just because I'm watching!
If you were the real deal...

...
Let's go!
Quit your babb-ling.
CLOP
I'm just lookin' out for your life, that's all.
...I ain't scared of nothin'.
If I go full throttle, you might go flyin' out the window.

Mr. Akagi!
SLAM
Enough!
You sure you can handle this?
I'm like a freakin' bullet.
All right, if you say so.
VAROOOM
Here we go...
Strap in.
BREEEHHH
Off to hell!

VEWWNNN
KREE
KREE
KREE
KREE
R...
reverse!?
!?

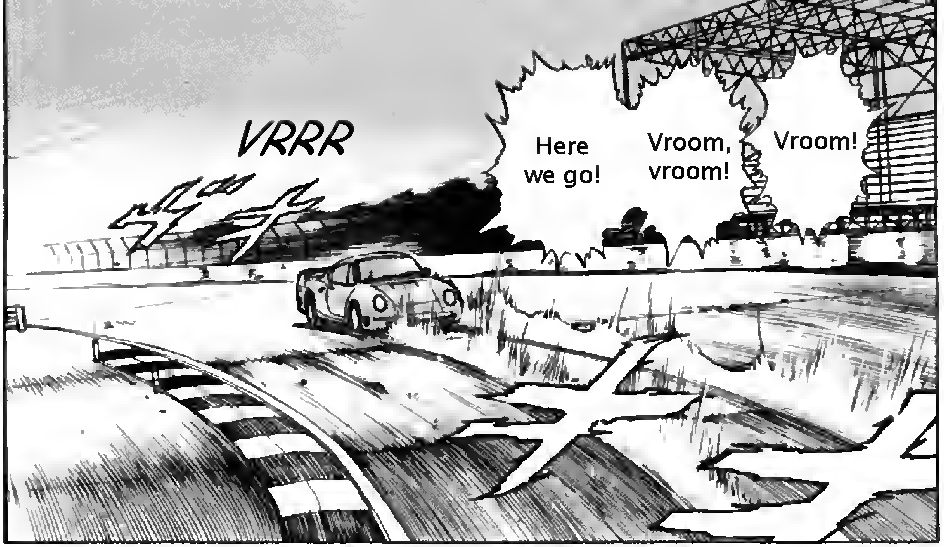
Chapter 3: Reverse

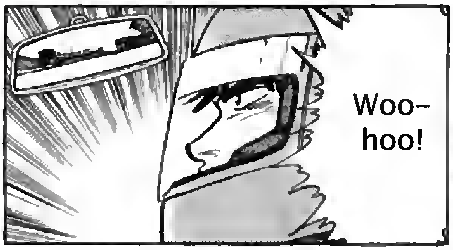
VROOO
SKREEE
BAROOO
He... He's going in reverse!

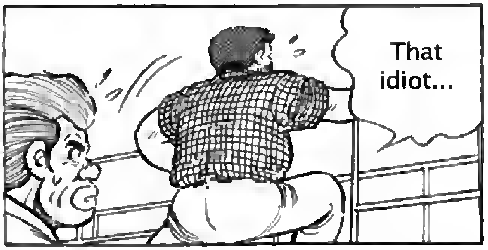
VROOO
He... He's going in reverse!

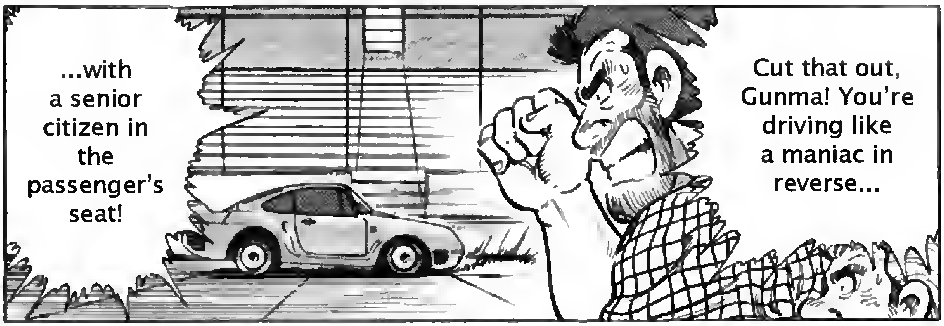
SKREEE
BAROOO

VWOOSH
All right! Now we're goin' on the track!
How's it feel to be out on the circuit, Pops!?
Wahh hah hah hah!
...
FWOOH
FORMU

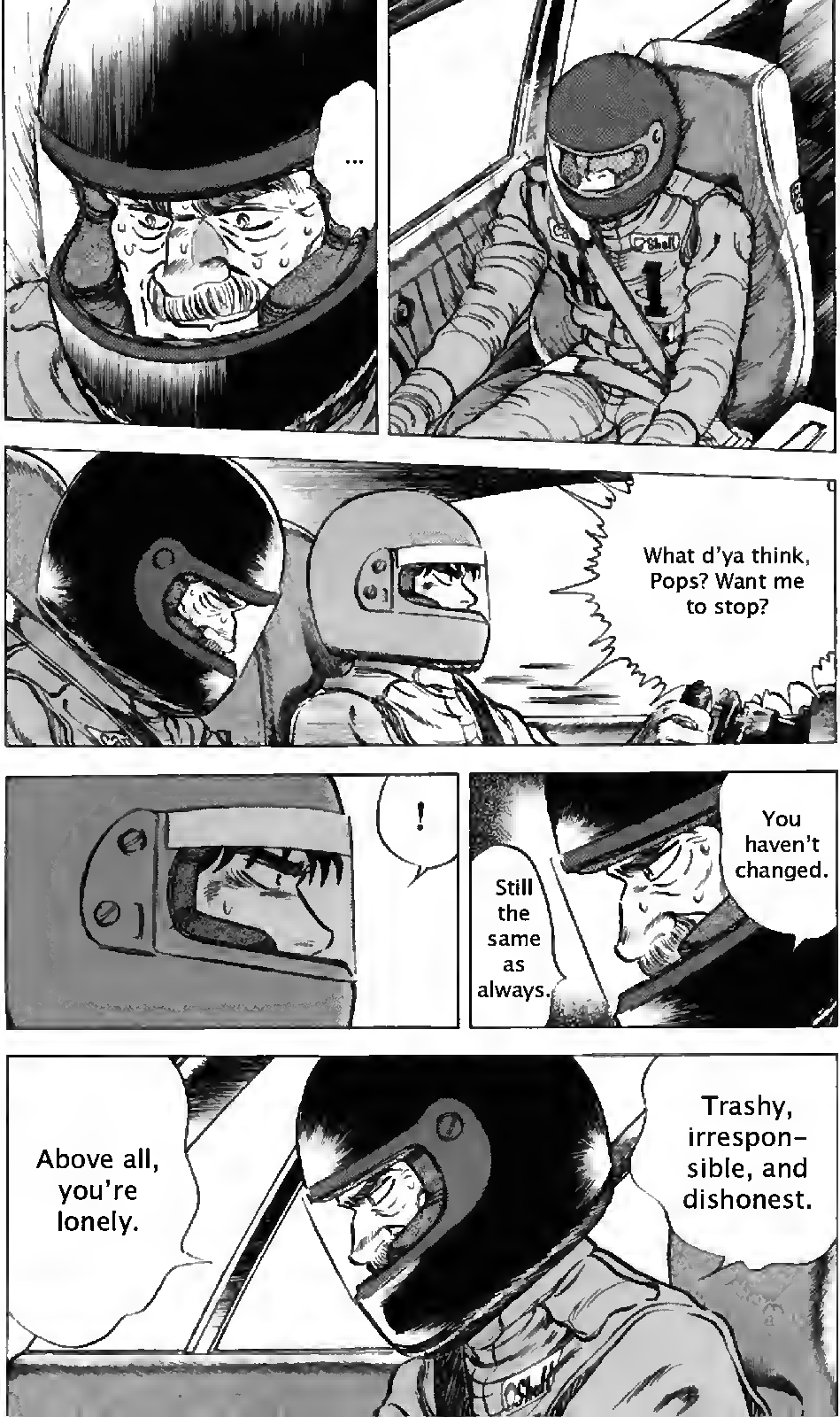

VRRR
Here we go!
Vroom, vroom!
Vroom!


Woo-hoo!

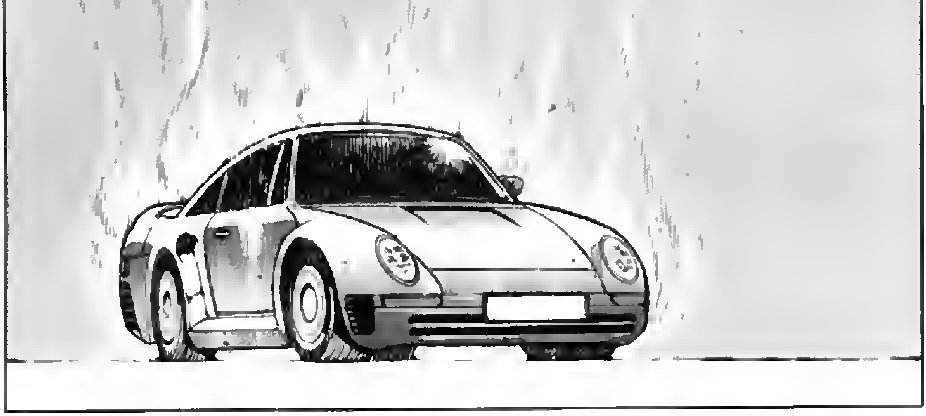

That idiot...

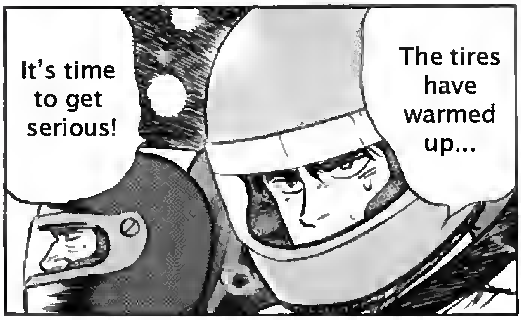

...with a senior citizen in the passenger's seat!
Cut that out, Gunma! You're driving like a maniac in reverse...

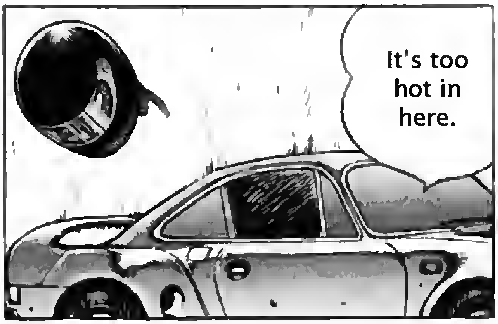
This is how you clear a chicane in reverse!
INI OIL


...
What d'ya think, Pops? Want me to stop?
!
You haven't changed.
Still the same as always.
Above all, you're lonely.
Trashy, irresponsible, and dishonest.

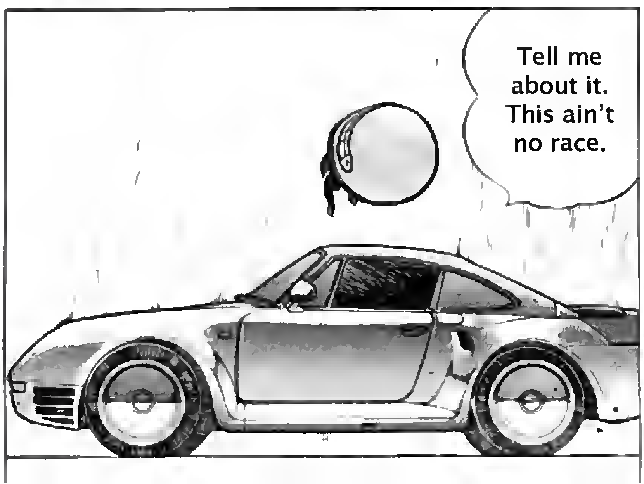
You're desperate for others' approval.
But you don't know how to express it.
Because of that, you'll always be a phony who doesn't know how to live like a real man!
The circus is over, Gunma.
!
KREEEE

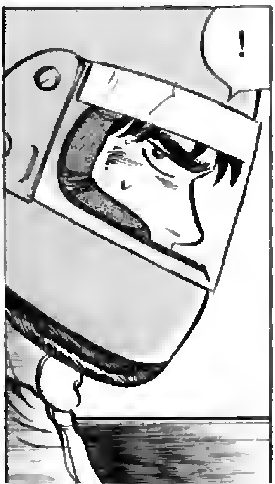



It's time to get serious!
The tires have warmed up...

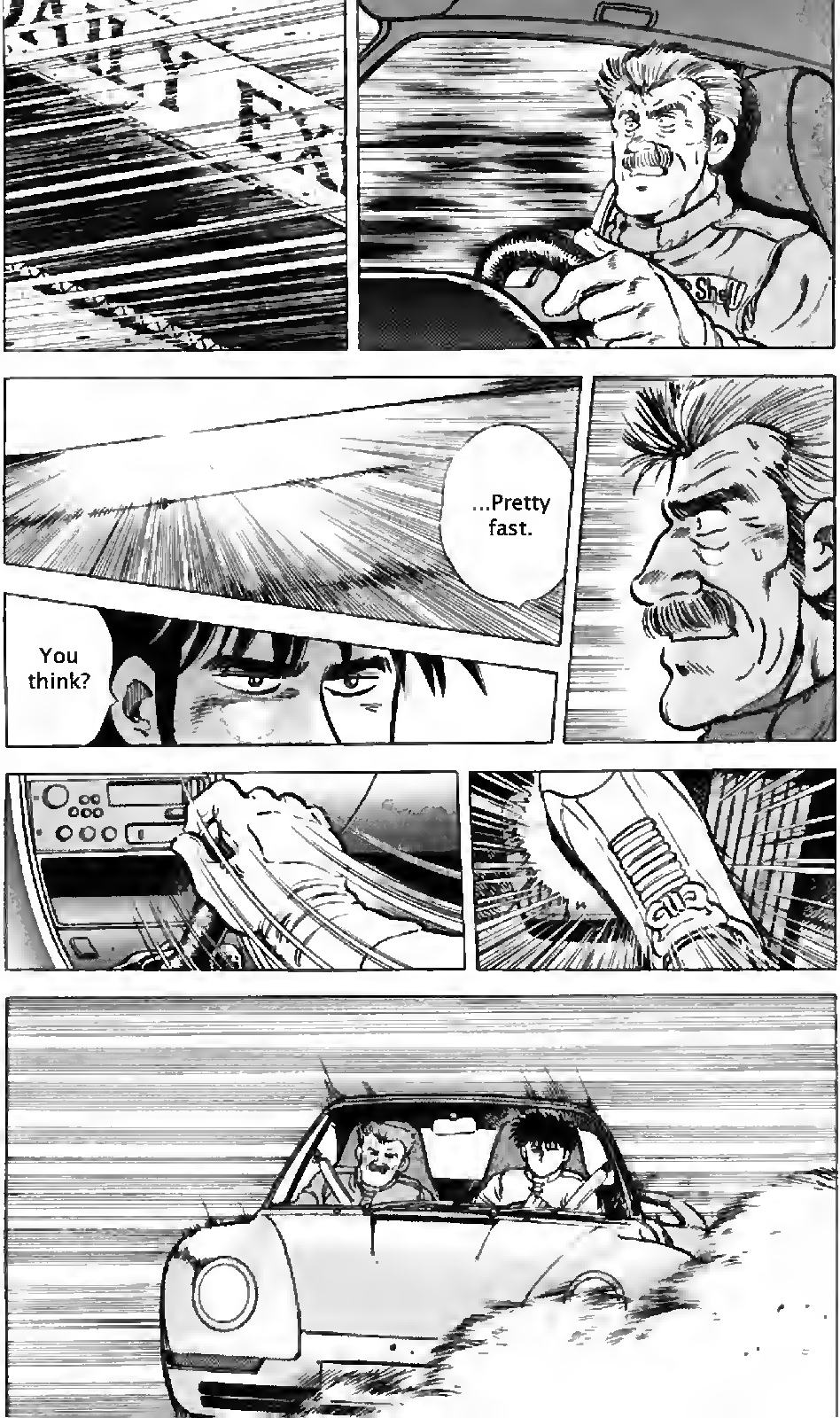

It's too hot in here.

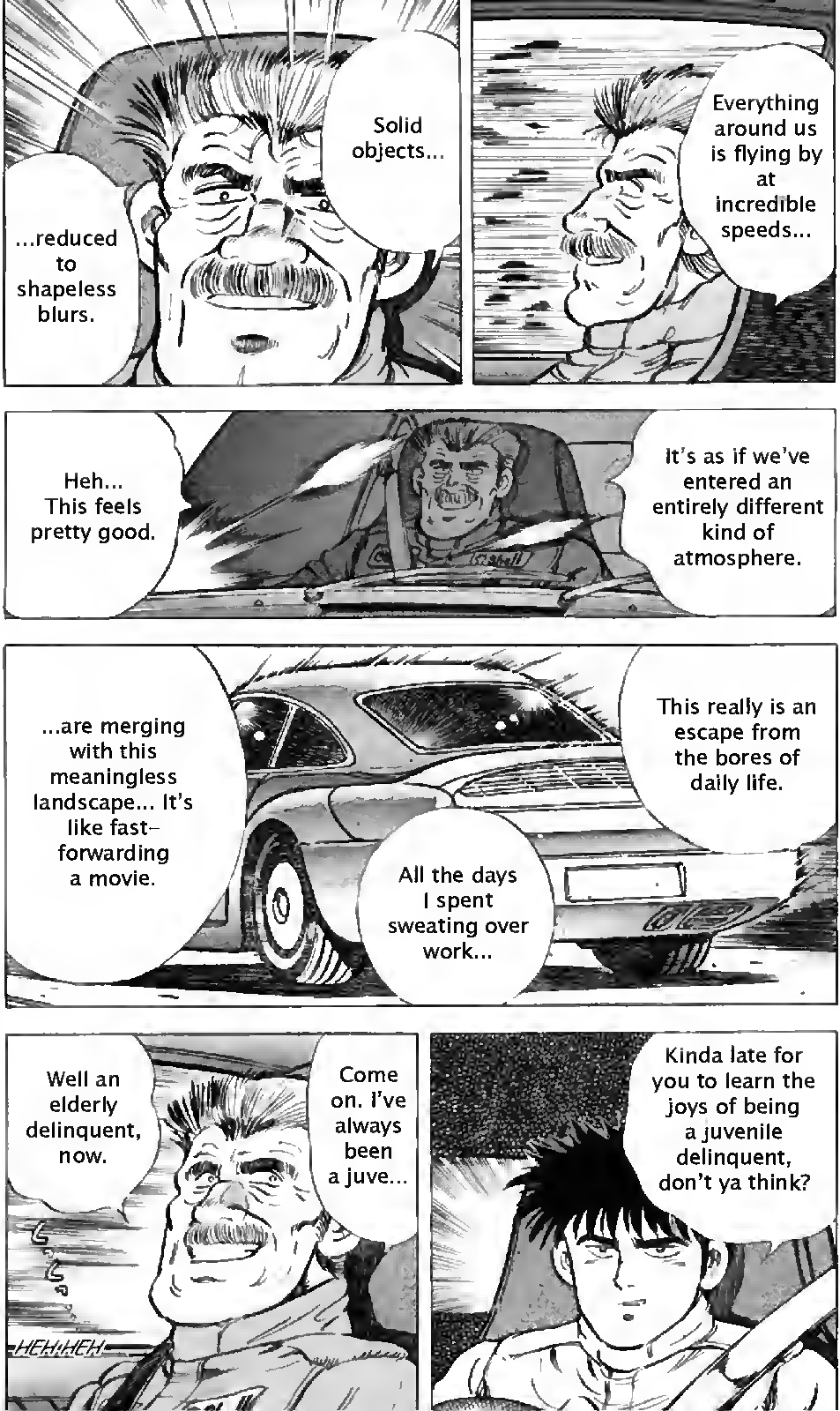
Sigh.


Tell me about it. This ain't no race.


!

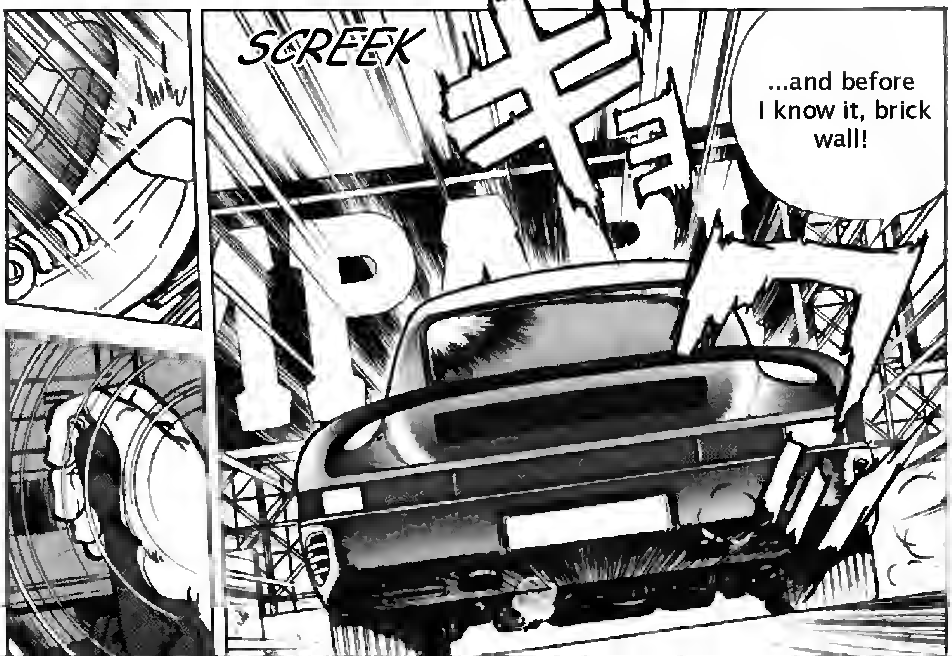
CRITCH
All right, then.
Just sit back and enjoy, Pops.
VROO
VROOH
KRR
KRR
WOOSH
VRRR


...Pretty fast.
You think?


Solid objects...
...reduced to shapeless blurs.
Everything around us is flying by at incredible speeds...
Heh... This feels pretty good.
It's as if we've entered an entirely different kind of atmosphere.
...are merging with this meaningless landscape... It's like fast-forwarding a movie.
All the days I spent sweating over work...
This really is an escape from the bores of daily life.
Well an elderly delinquent, now.
Come on. I've always been a juve...
HEHHEH
Kinda late for you to learn the joys of being a juvenile delinquent, don't ya think?

...and before you know it...
...that becomes your daily life.
Zippin' through town and across highways was fun and all, but...
Then you start racing...

But now, I got people on my tail, and people trying to pass in front of me. It's a lot to deal with.
I get caught up in all that...
Before, I did it just for my own satisfaction.


SCREEK
...and before I know it, brick wall!

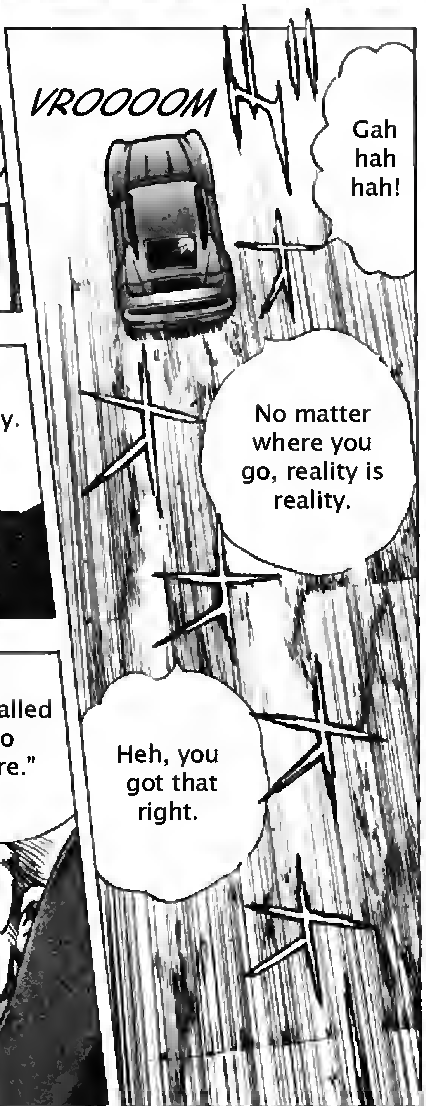
ブーン
VRRVRR

Phew, at least he's driving forward now...

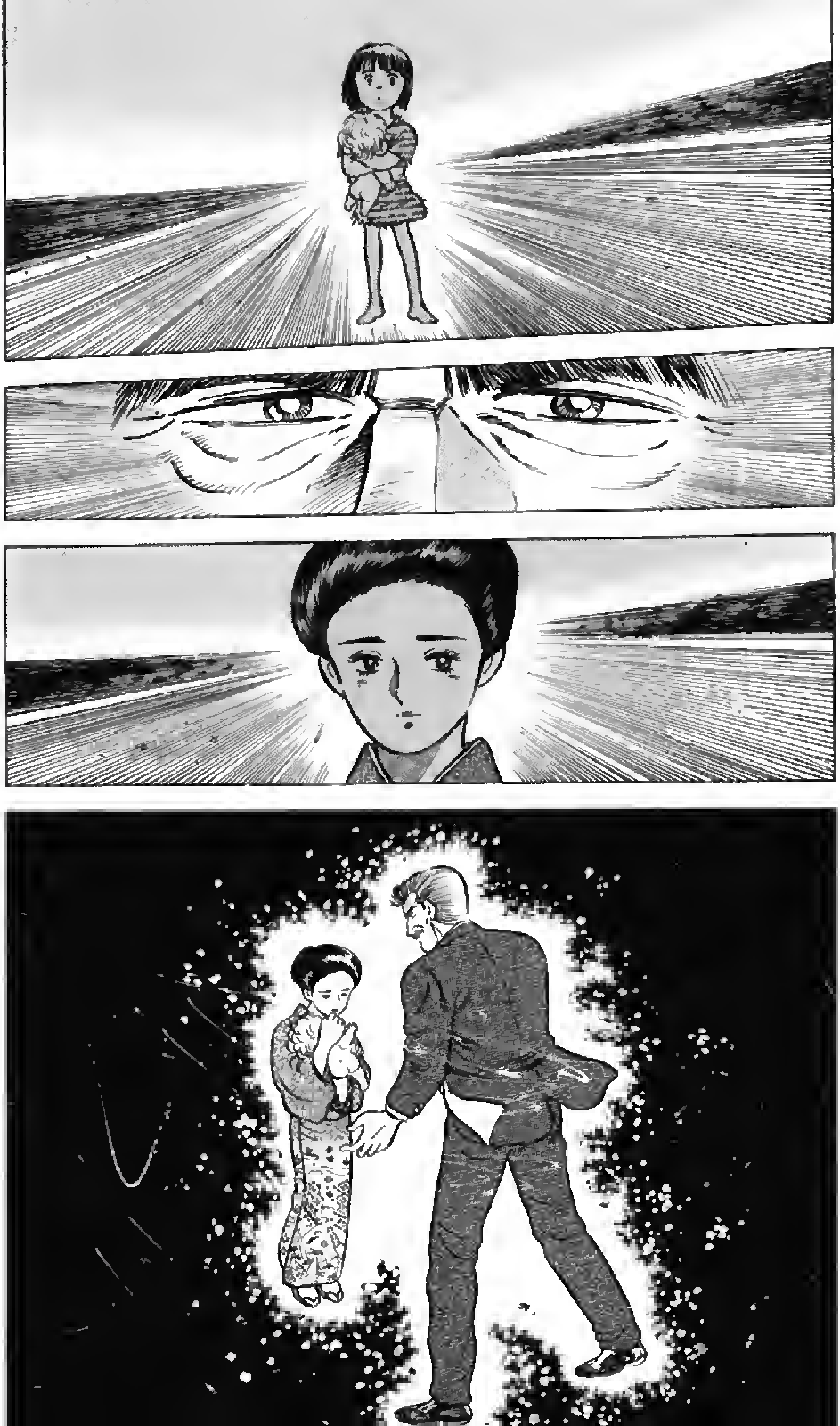
This reminds me of that movie.
Hey.

I haven't been to a movie in years.

You seen it?
The one called "Back to the Future."


VROOOOM
Gah hah hah!
No matter where you go, reality is reality.
Heh, you got that right.

There's this oddball scientist...
...and he builds a time machine.
The time machine is a car...
...and when they drive it at high speeds...
...they can go to the past, or the future
Any time they want, really.
Any time...
...they want.



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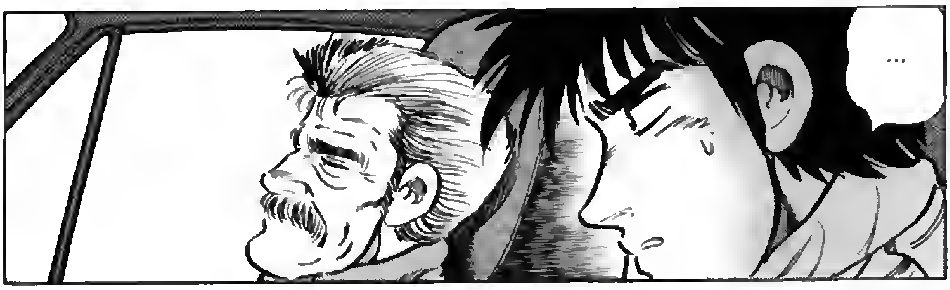
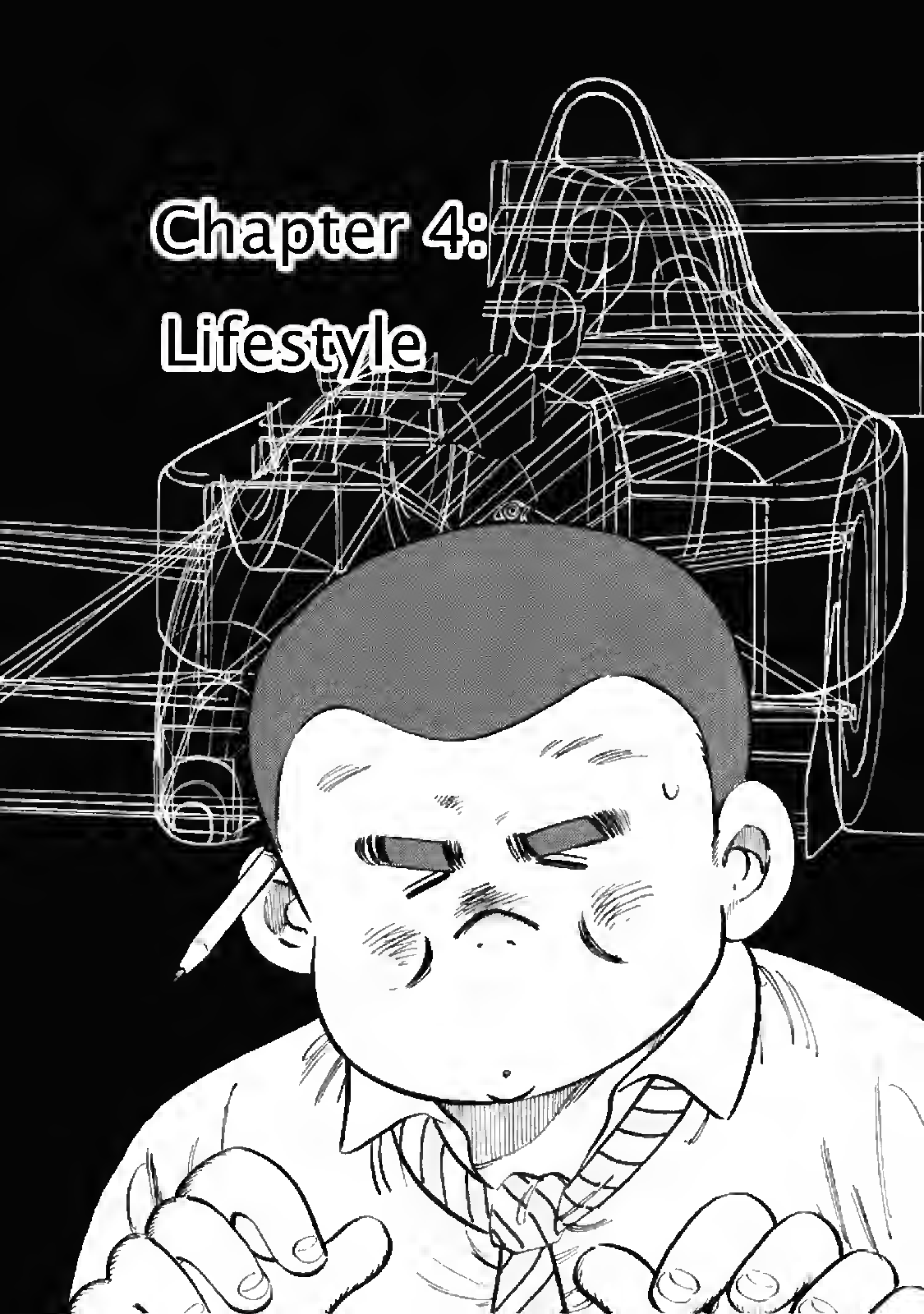

...

Tsk...
He fell asleep on me.


Chapter 4:
Lifestyle

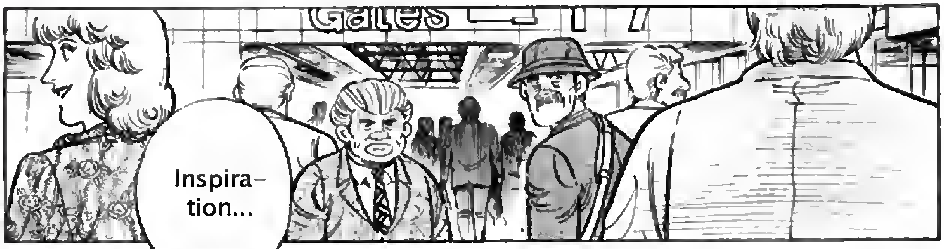
BRITISH AIRWAYS
VEEEEEERN
ギィィィィン

ゴォォォォ
FROOOAR

VEEERN
ィィィ

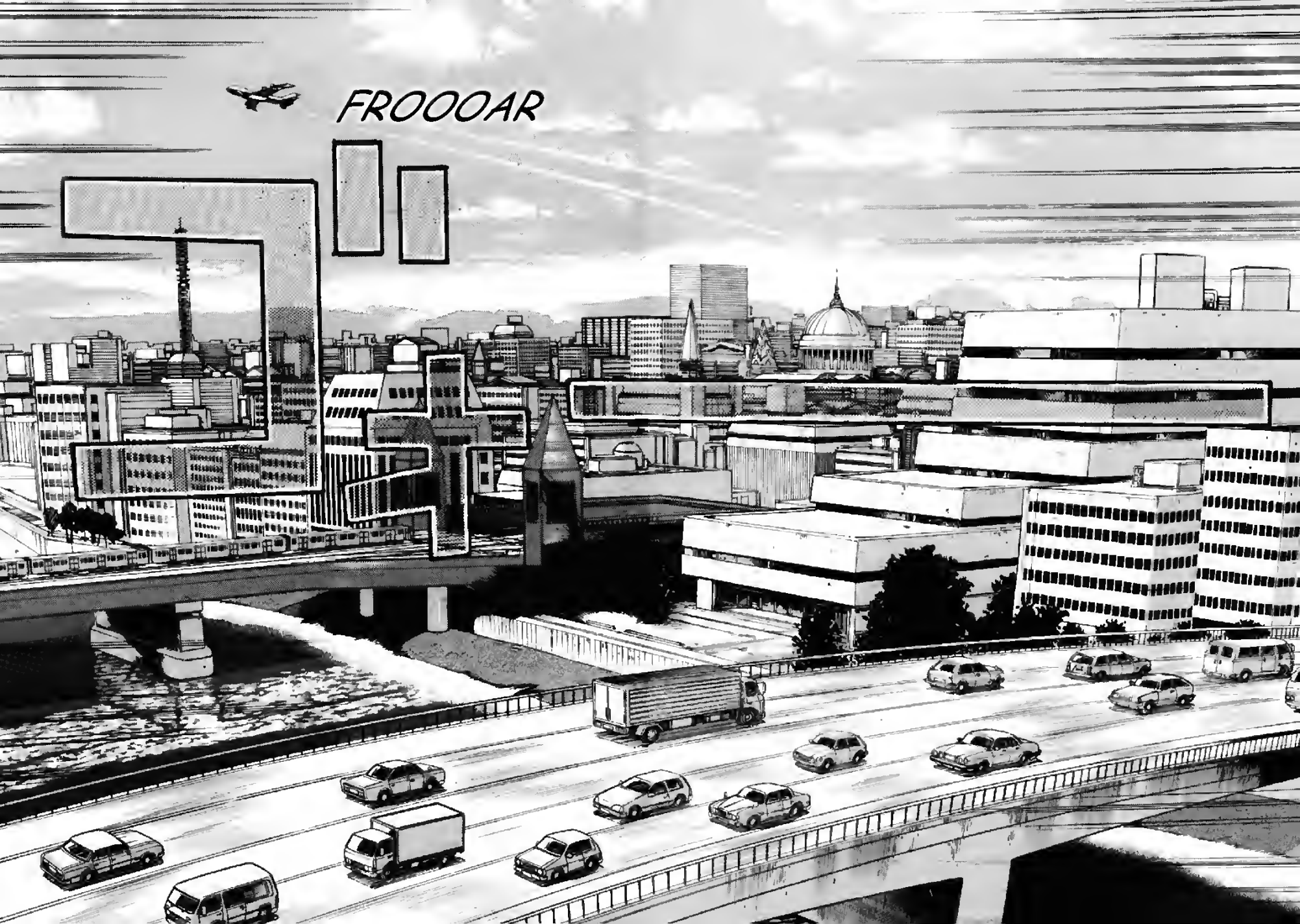
Hey, wake up, old man!
You're the one who wanted a ride around the circuit.
So I drove you around like a chauffeur...
...and then you go and fall asleep in the passenger seat!
What am I, a joke to you? Get up, ya old geezer!
SLAM
Thank you, Mr. Gunma.
I'm very sorry to have barged in and put you through all that.
He's going through a lot back in Japan.
Mr. Akagi won't show it, because that's just how he is...
...but he's in quite a bit of trouble.

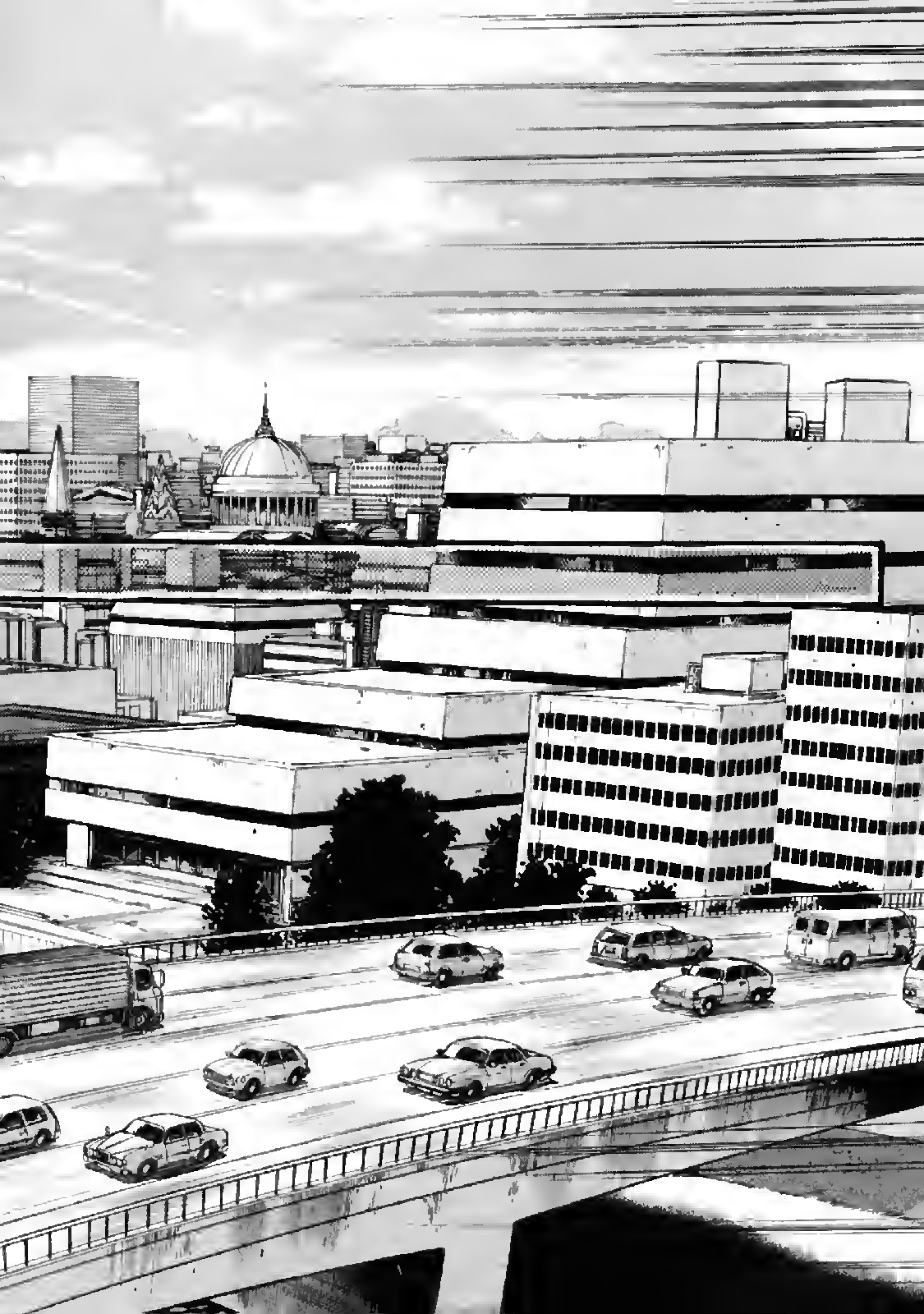
I believe Mr. Akagi came to see you...
...to, well, I don't know how to put it, but...
I think he came to you looking for inspiration.

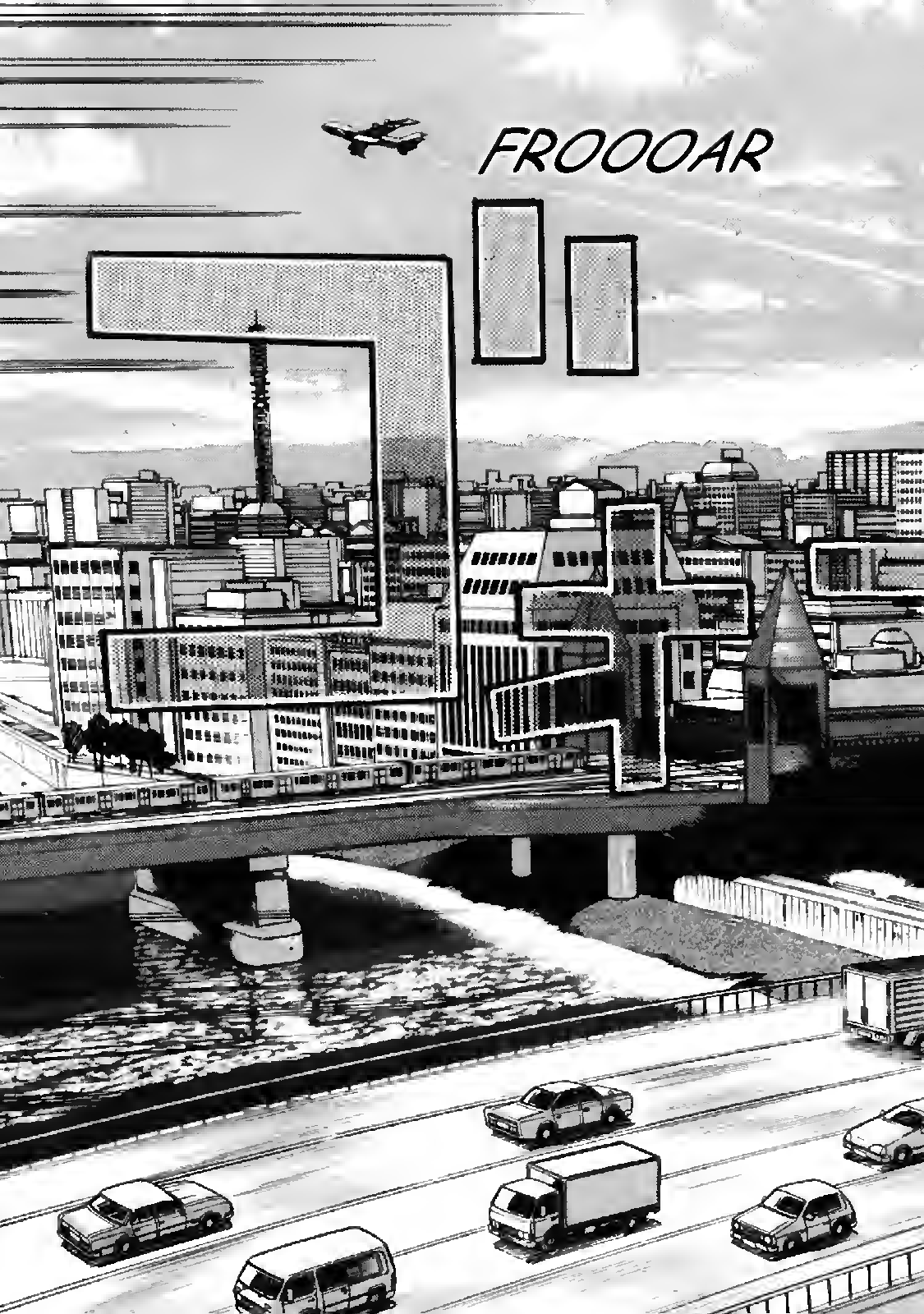

Inspira-tion...

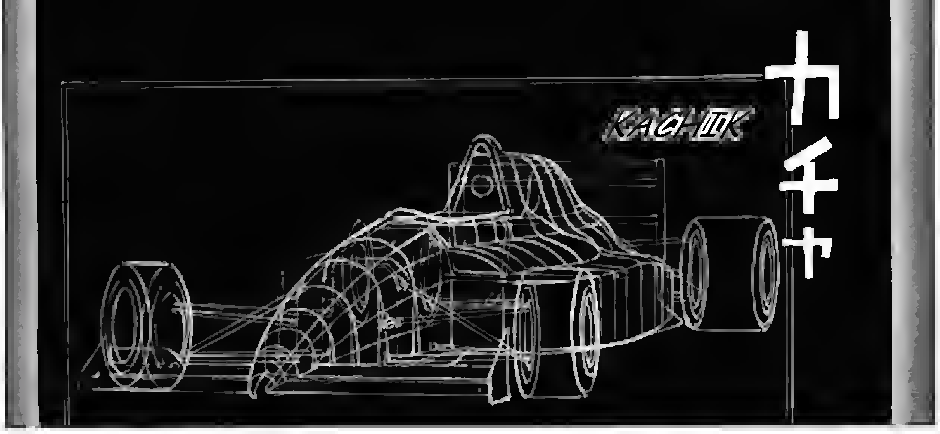
I still have a lot of things to take care of!
Gunma!

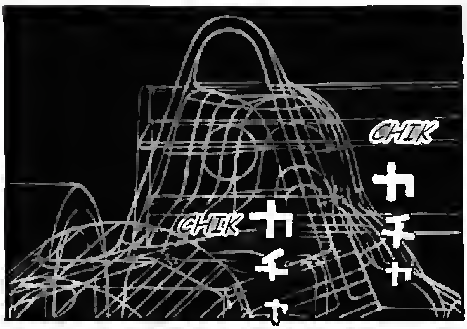
I used to think a circuit is just a place where fools drive around the same place in circles. But when you drove me around...
This might be the last time I ever see you, so...
Run, son!
I realized that you were always facing forward!
It was really some-thing!
...
...!

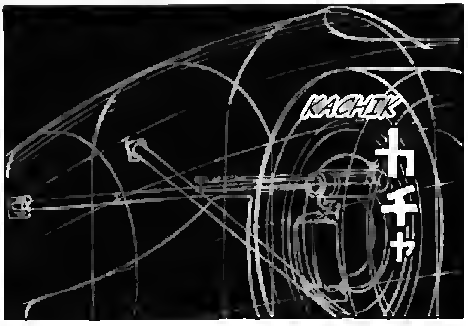

FROOOAR

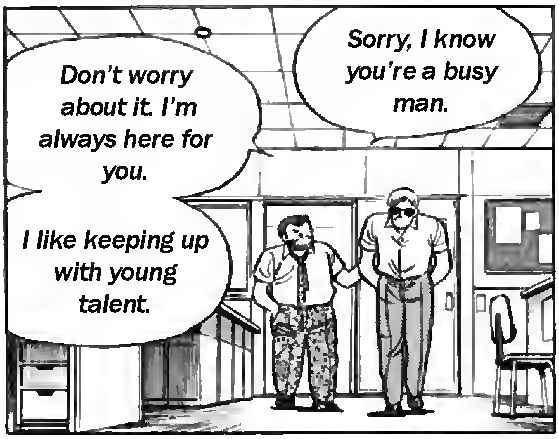



FROOOAR

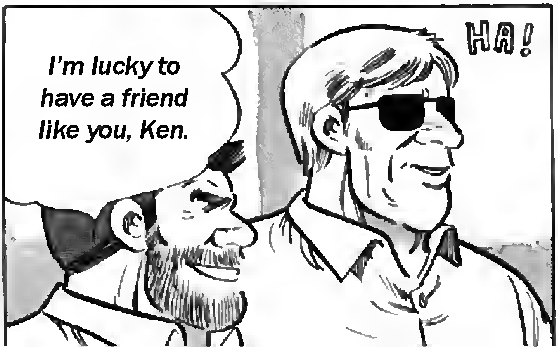

KACHIK
カチャ

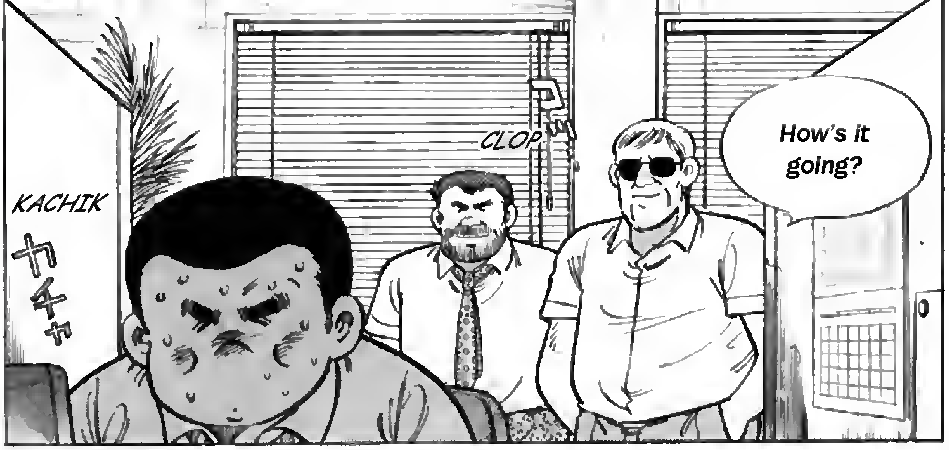

CHIK
カチャ
CHIK
カチャ

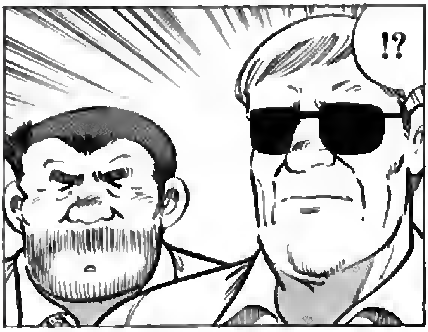

KACHIK
カチャ


Sorry, I know you're a busy man.
Don't worry about it. I'm always here for you.
I like keeping up with young talent.

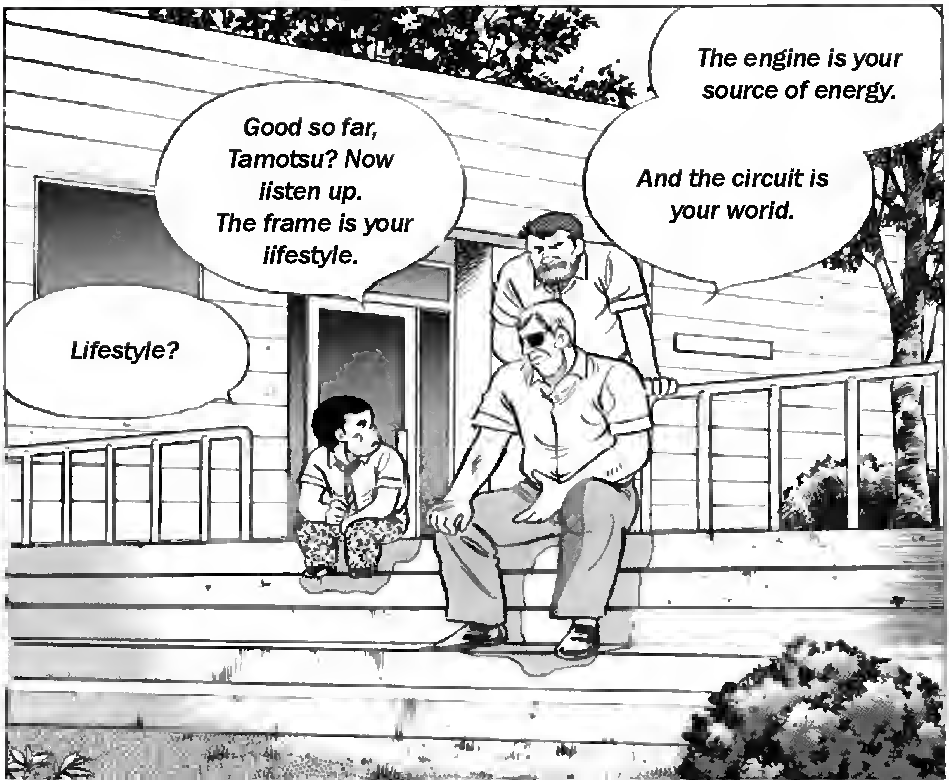
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK

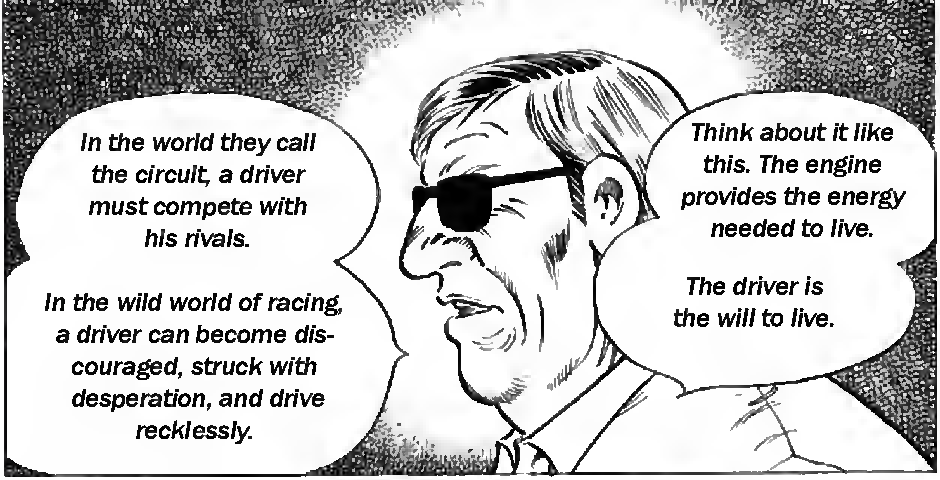

I'm lucky to have a friend like you, Ken.
HA!

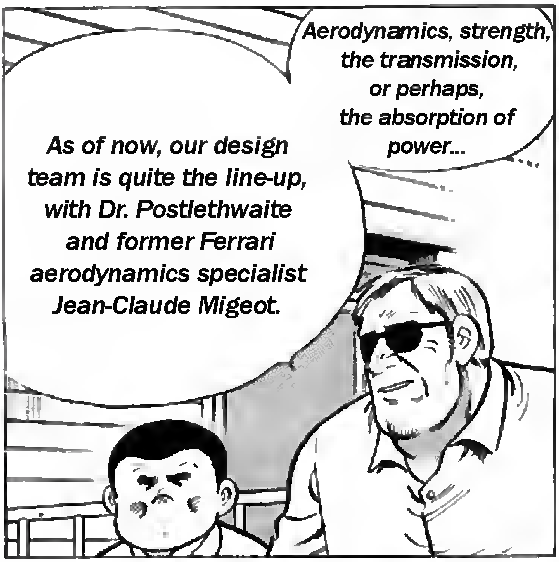

KACHIK
CLOP
How's it going?


!?

...


Good so far, Tamotsu? Now listen up. The frame is your lifestyle.
The engine is your source of energy.
And the circuit is your world.
Lifestyle?


In the world they call the circuit, a driver must compete with his rivals.
In the wild world of racing, a driver can become discouraged, struck with desperation, and drive recklessly.
Think about it like this. The engine provides the energy needed to live.
The driver is the will to live.

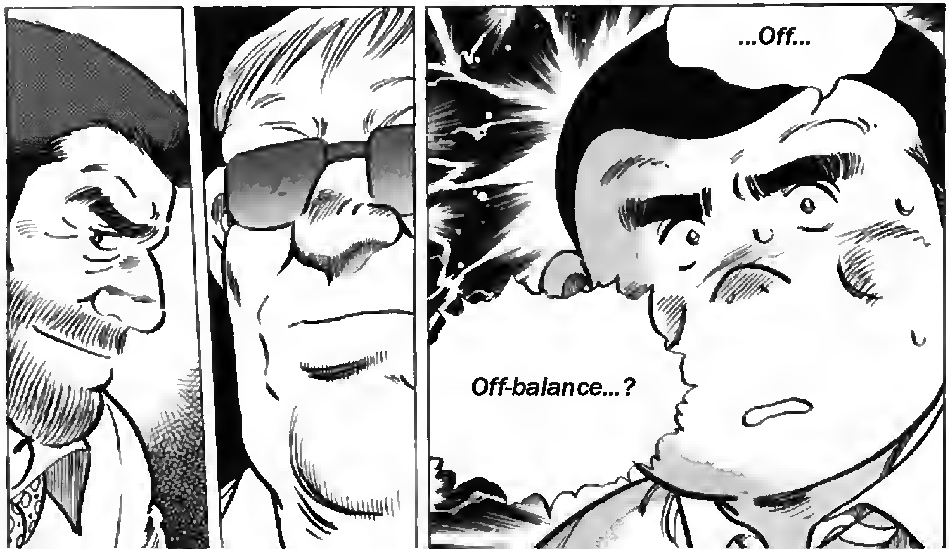

Aerodynamics, strength, the transmission, or perhaps, the absorption of power...
As of now, our design team is quite the line-up, with Dr. Postlethwaite and former Ferrari aerodynamics specialist Jean-Claude Migeot.

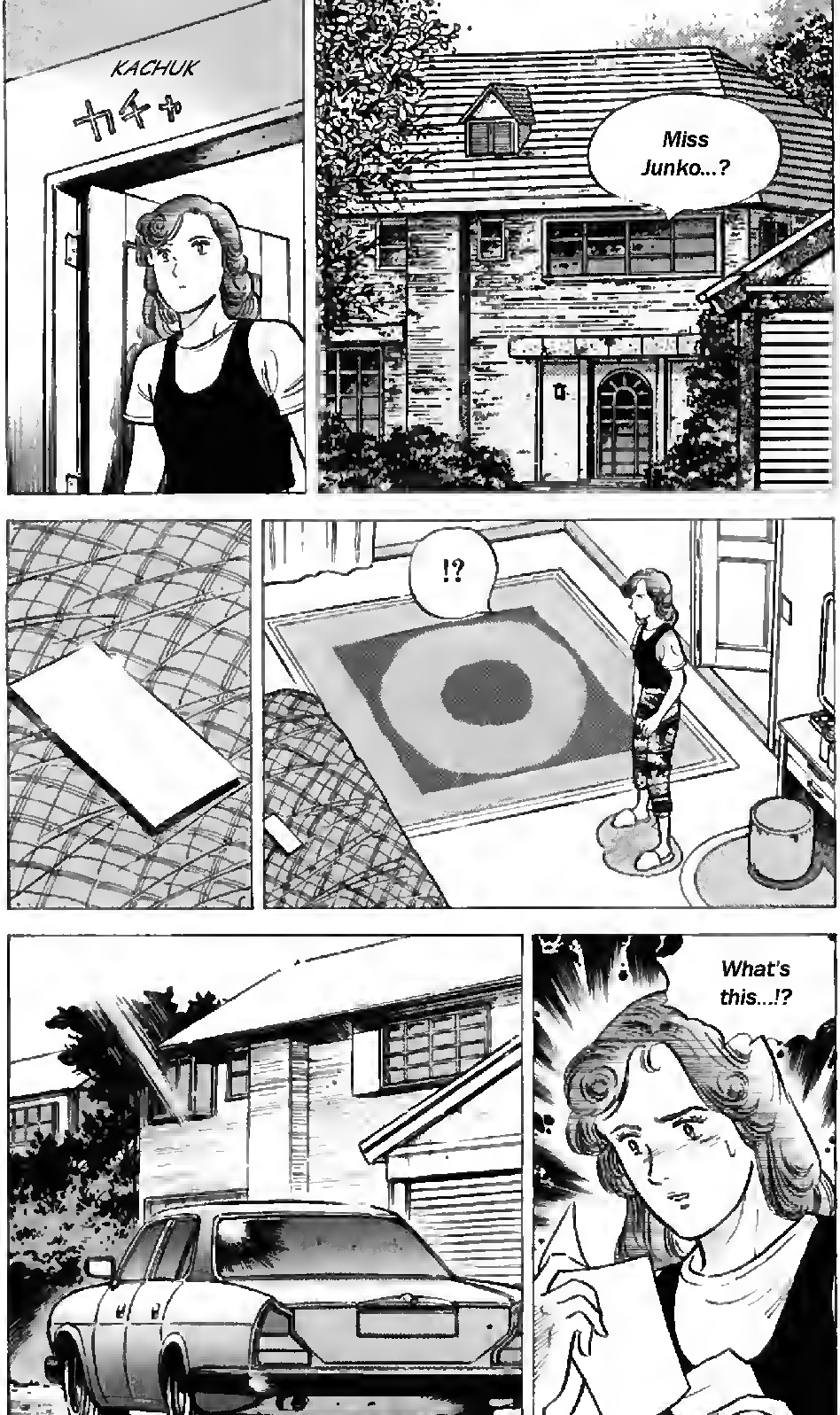
While there are moments of ecstasy, there are also hellish deaths.
To design a frame is to design how a race car lives.

That's because we are all working with the same design concept.
Even so, beating a McLaren, a Ferrari, or even a Williams is no easy task.

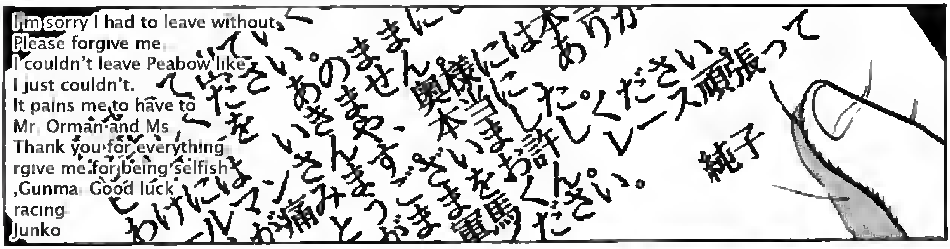
YES!
Is it.. balance?

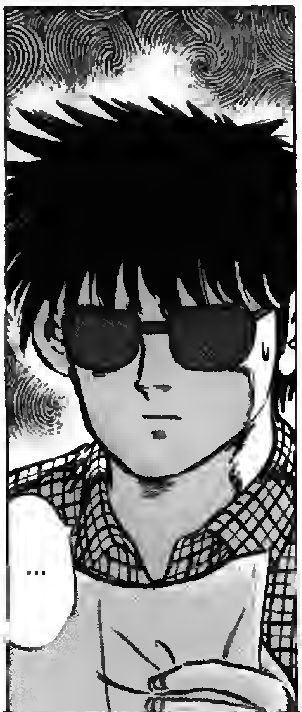
All right, Tamotsu. I'm going to give you a hint.
I mean no offense, but you're young.
Orman says he wants to build a frame. Orman is a friend of mine, so I let him use my factory.
So if there was a way for you to retaliate against us, what would that be?
I don't know you very well.
Think of it like this. If you wanted to sabotage our concept of a "balanced" vehicle...


...Off...
Off-balance...?


KACHUK
カチャ
Miss Junko...?
!?
What's this...!?

It's Miss Junko, she...
Look at this!
!?
Gun-ma.
SLAM


I'm sorry I had to leave without
Please forgive me
I couldn't leave Peabow like
I just couldn't.
It pains me to have to
Mr. Orman and Ms
Thank you for everything
rgive me for being selfish
,Gunma. Good luck
racing
Junko
純子

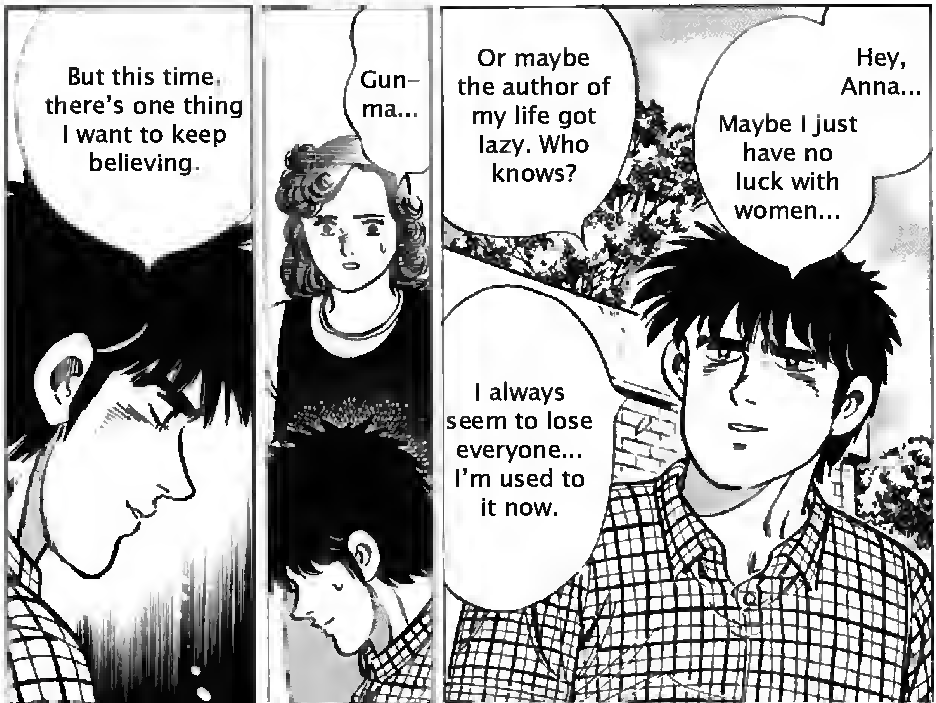

...

Poor Junko... She had no place to go after she was found out... Poor girl...
It's nothing but apolo-gies...

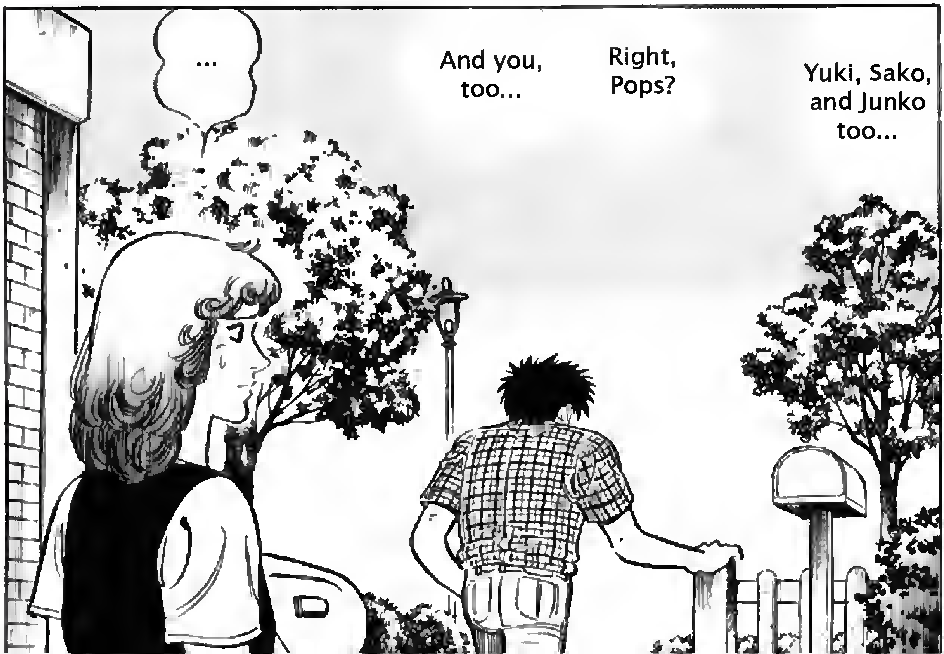
...!

You love Junko, don't you?
You're all right with this, Gunma?
Why couldn't you forgive her?

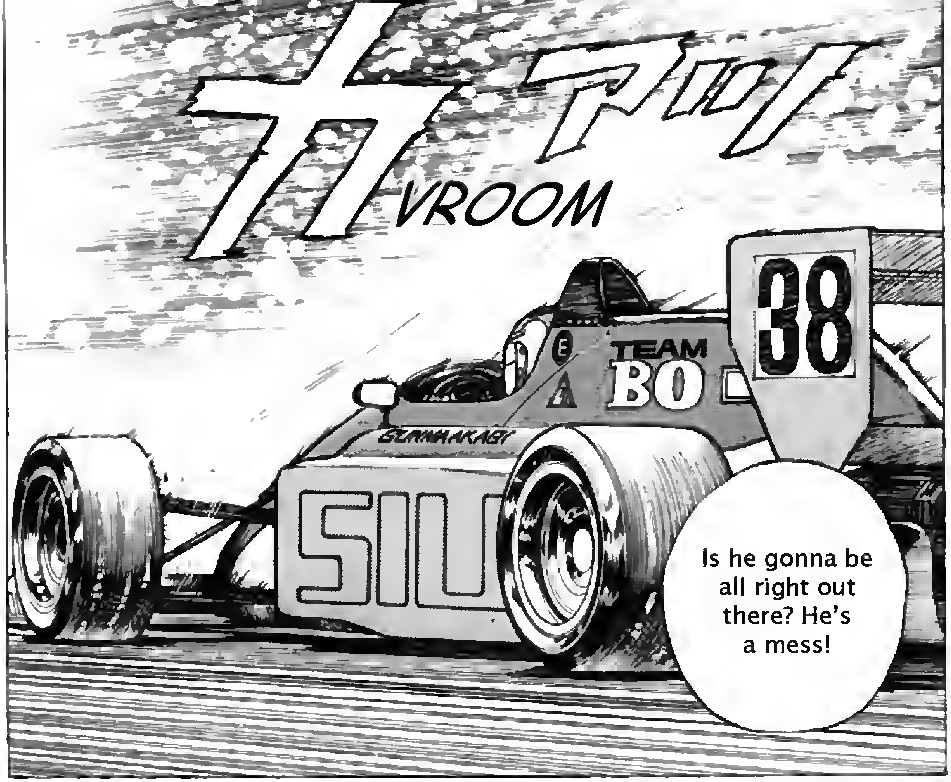
Gun-ma!
Yuki... Sako... It's all the same...
I'm used to this kind of thing... Heh heh...


But this time, there's one thing I want to keep believing.
Gun-ma...
Or maybe the author of my life got lazy. Who knows?
Hey, Anna...
Maybe I just have no luck with women...
I always seem to lose everyone... I'm used to it now.

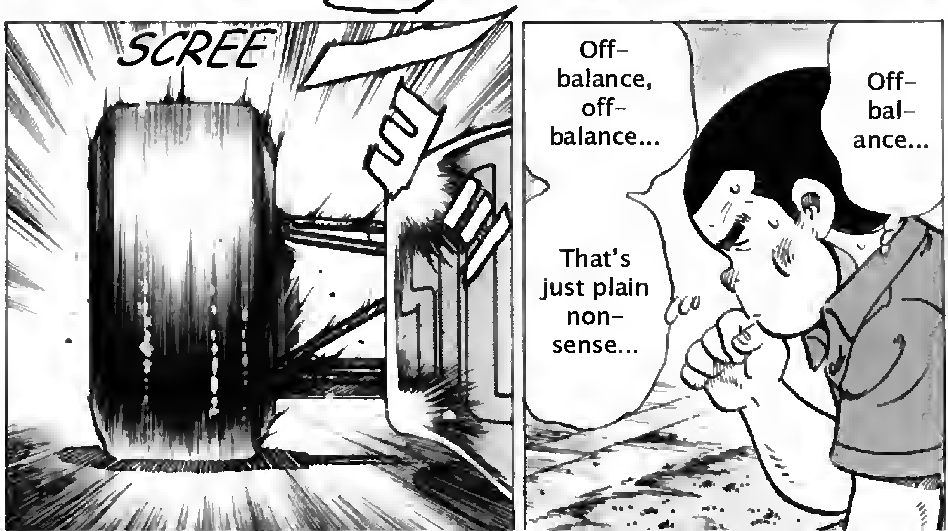
It may look like we're just going round and round the same circuit...
...but everyone is always facing forward!


...
And you, too...
Right, Pops?
Yuki, Sako, and Junko too...

"August 18 Brands Hatch F3000
International Championship
Preliminary Round"

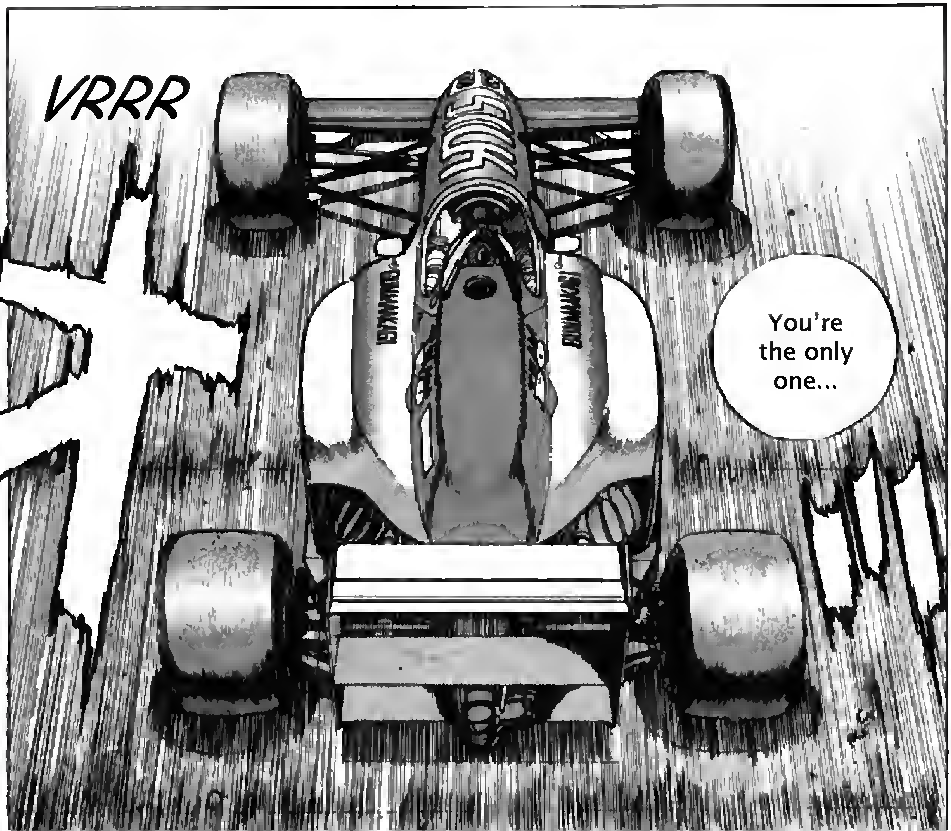

VROOM
TEAM
38
Is he gonna be all right out there? He's a mess!

He said he wants to race. We can't stop him.
Hmph... His time is good, but...

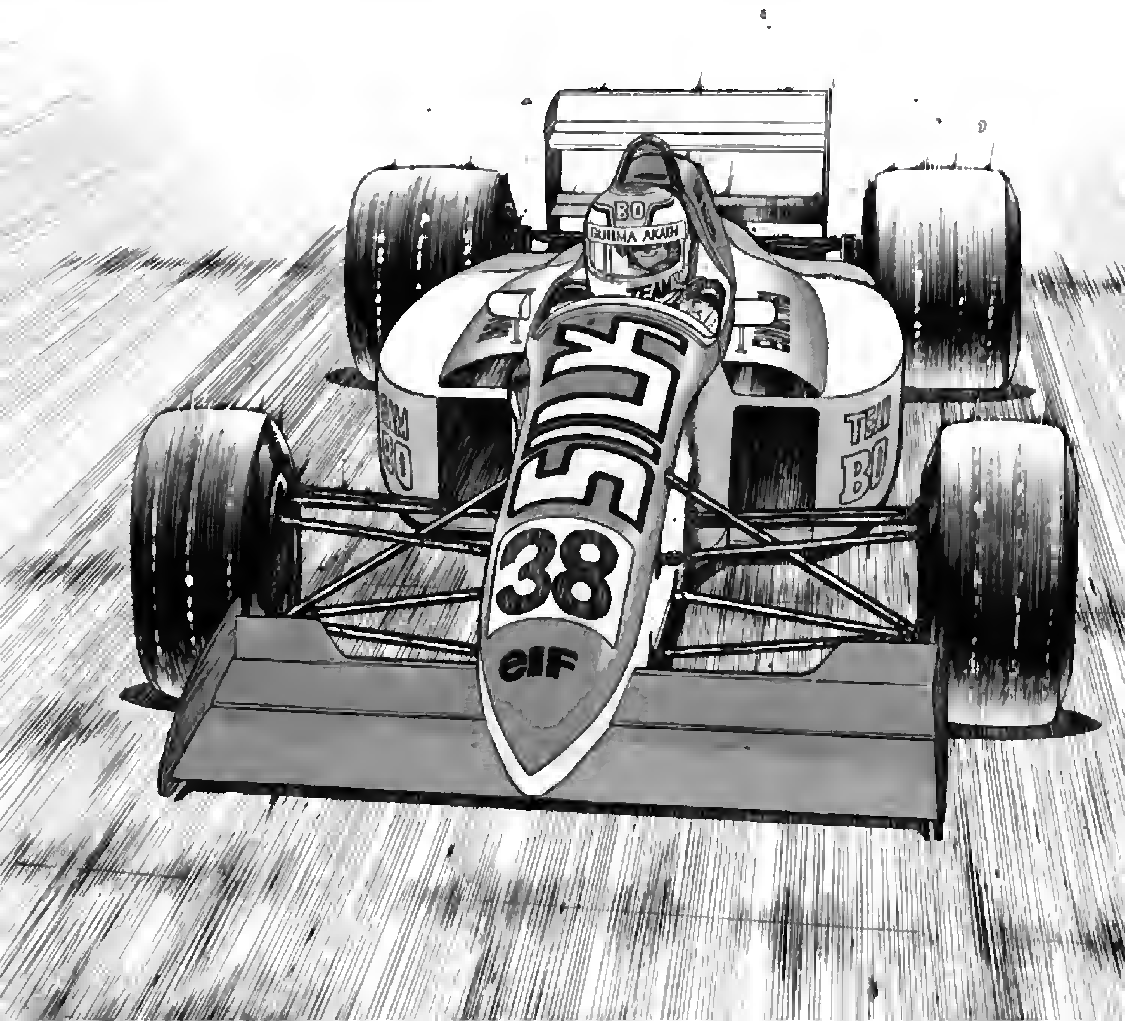

SCREE
Off-balance, off-balance...
Off-balance...
That's just plain nonsense...

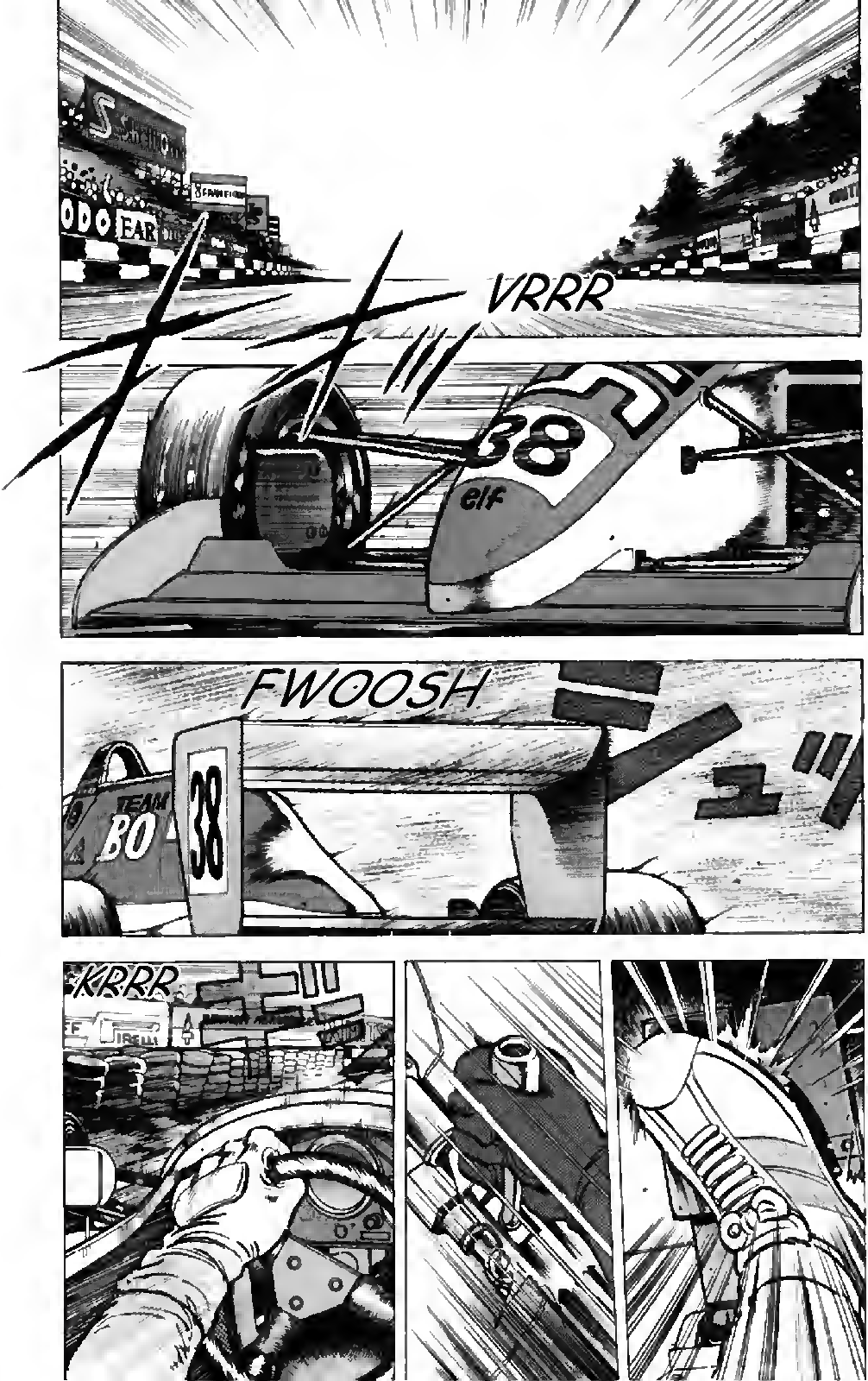
WOO
Oils
DAILY MAIL
EAR
I wonder if that punk's gonna show...

I'm depending on you...
Please, Junko...
ZOOOOOM

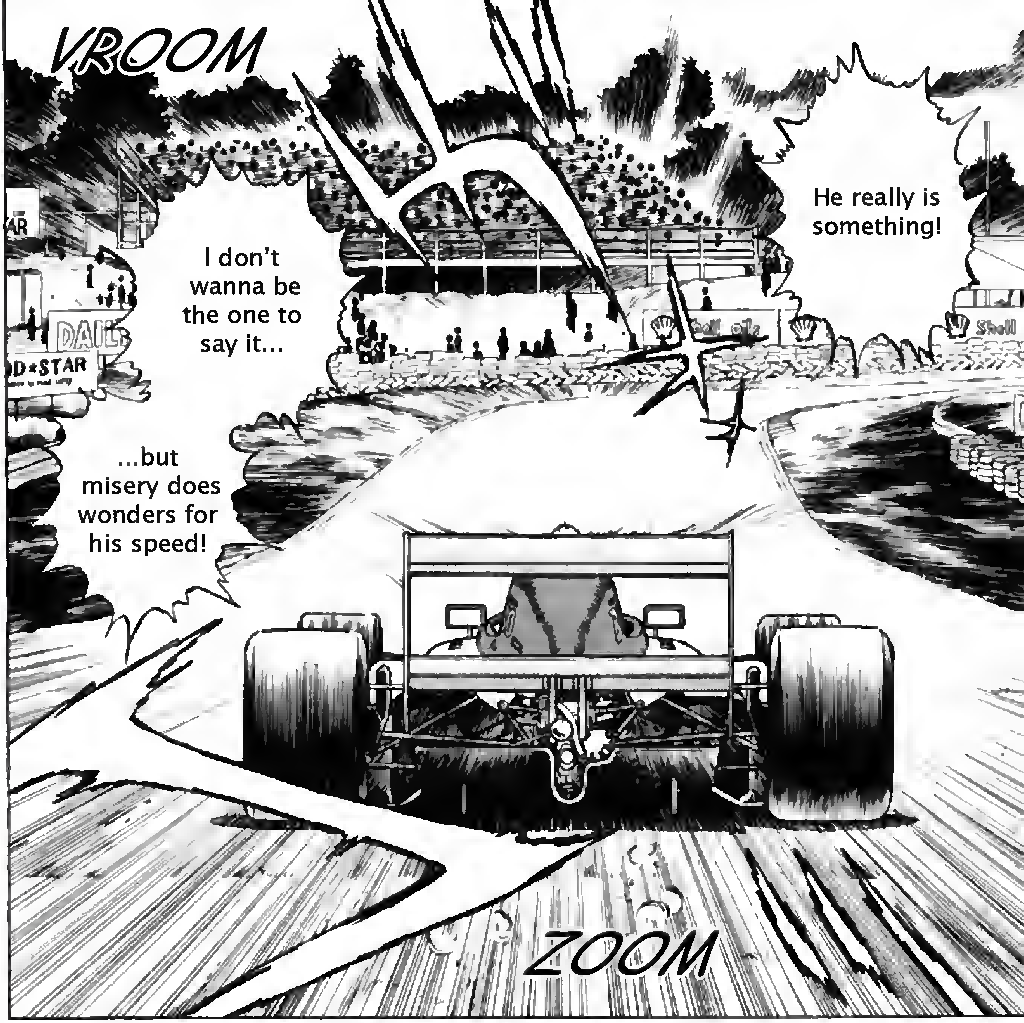

VRRR
You're the only one...

Chapter 5:
Two Rats



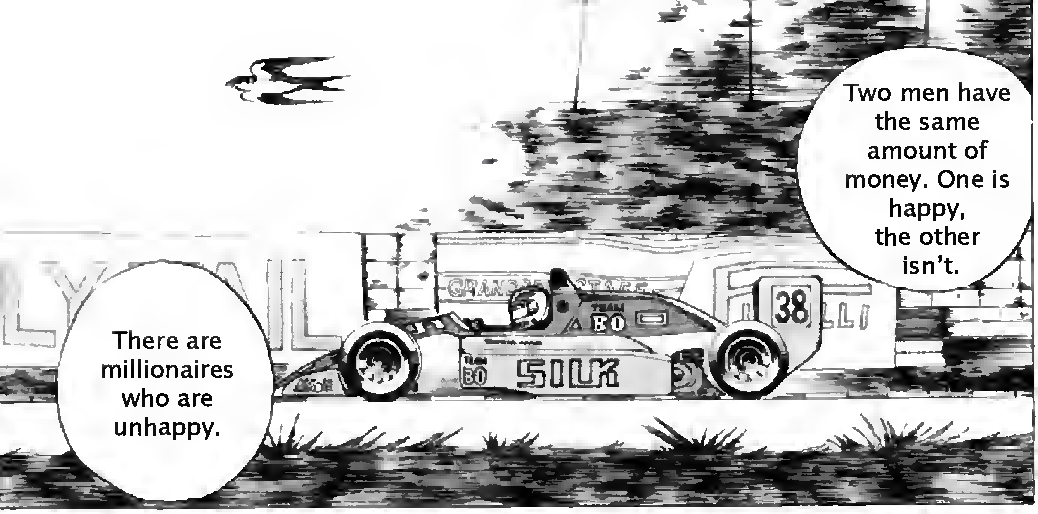

VRRR
38
elf
FWOOSH
TEAM
BO
38
KRRR

FWOOOSH
Gunma's after the pole position!
How was Jesus' time?
KRR
GLEAM

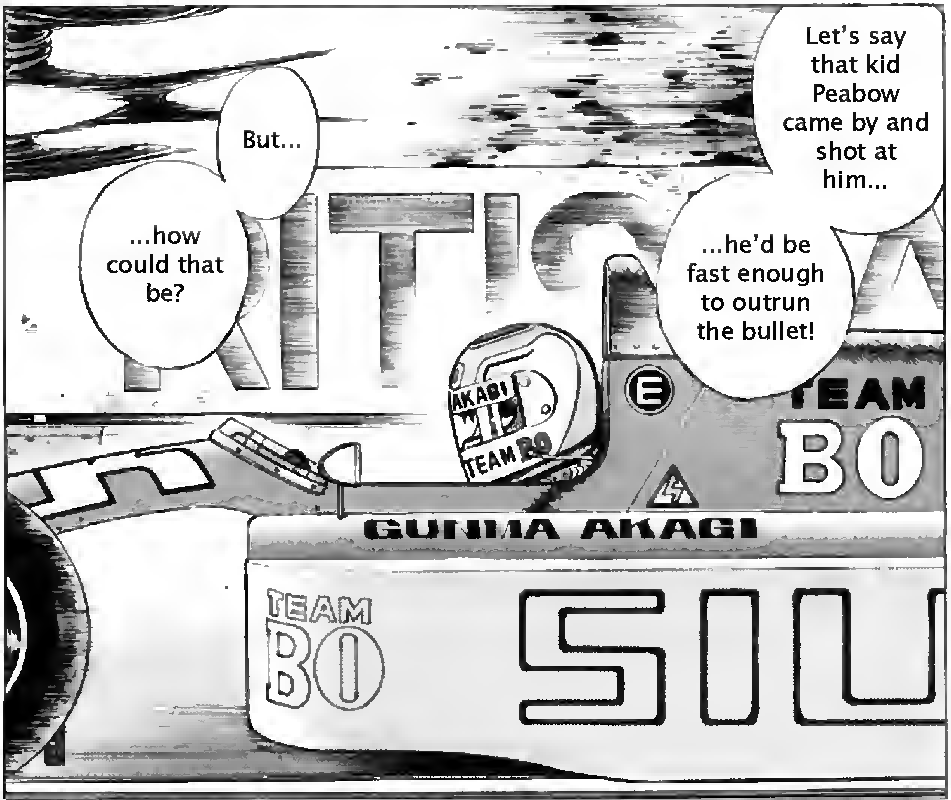

VROOM
He really is something!
I don't wanna be the one to say it...
...but misery does wonders for his speed!
ZOOM

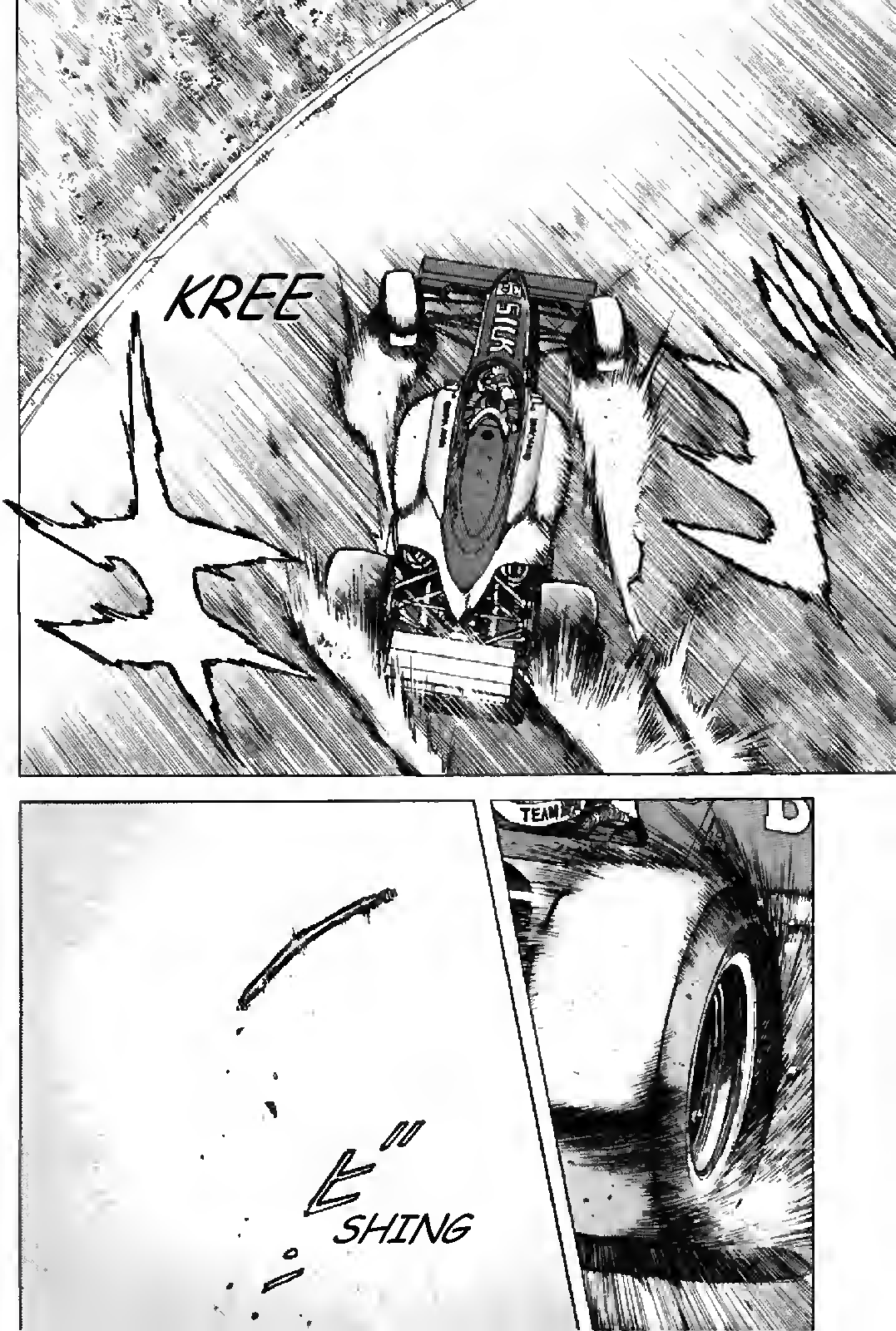
And it's not like he's making himself miserable just to drive faster, either.
It's not like he enjoys his own misery.
Now don't say that, Orman.

But how can that be?
There's no doubt about it.
The fact of the matter is he's faster.

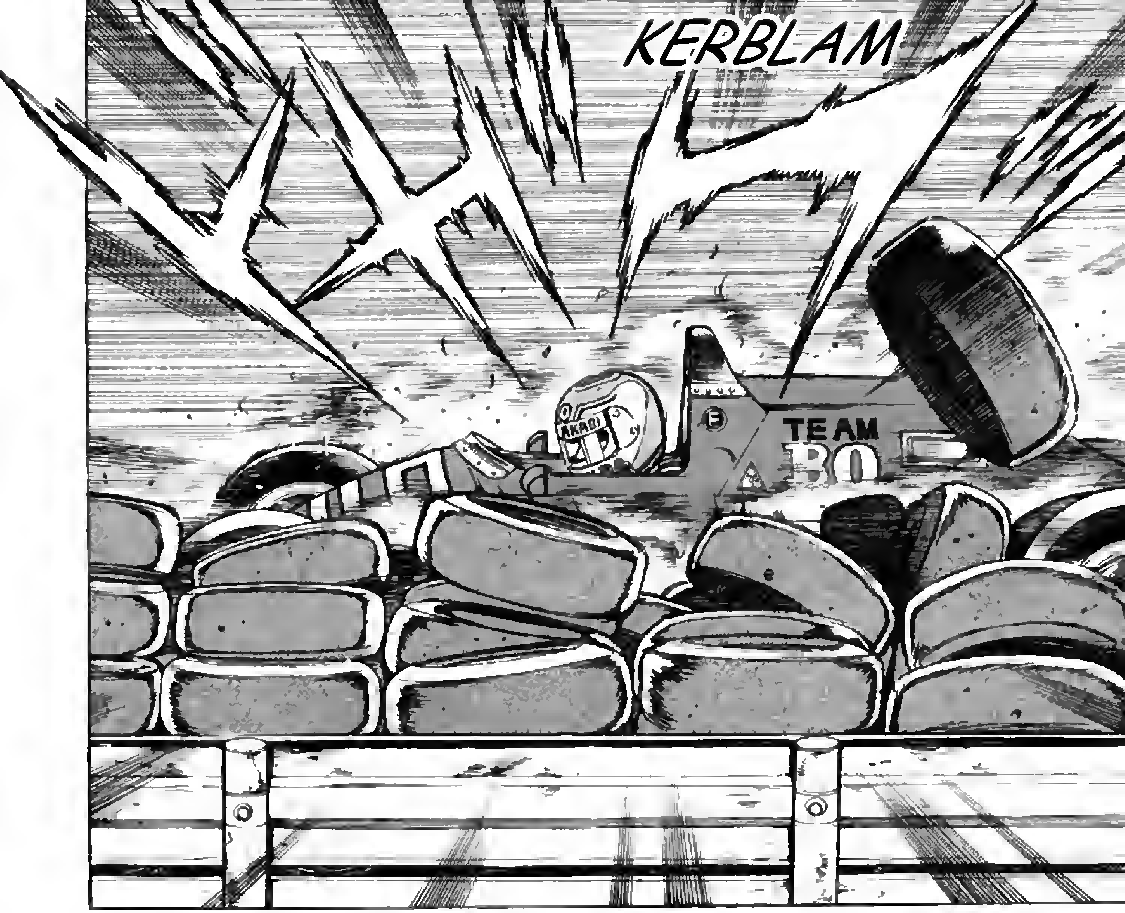

There are millionaires who are unhappy.
Two men have the same amount of money. One is happy, the other isn't.
38
TEAM BO
BO SILK

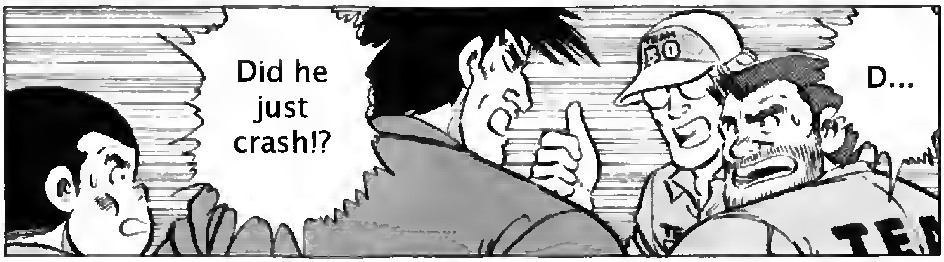
But just look at him.
Anyone who just got his license will feel satisfied driving at 100 kilometers an hour.

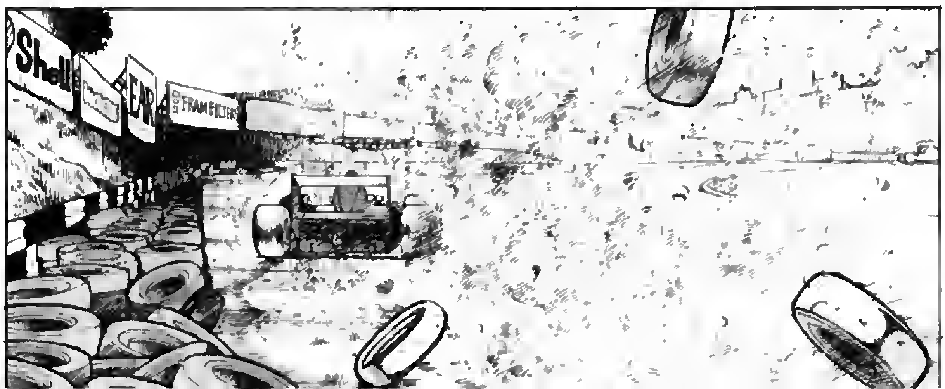

But...
...how could that be?
Let's say that kid Peabow came by and shot at him...
...he'd be fast enough to outrun the bullet!
AKAGI
TEAM BO
TEAM BO
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM BO


KREE
SUK
TEAM
D
E"
SHING

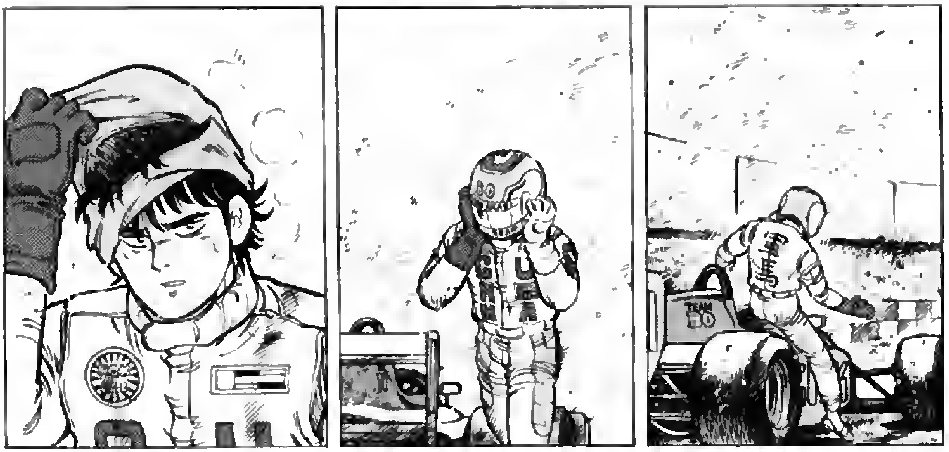
!!
38
elf

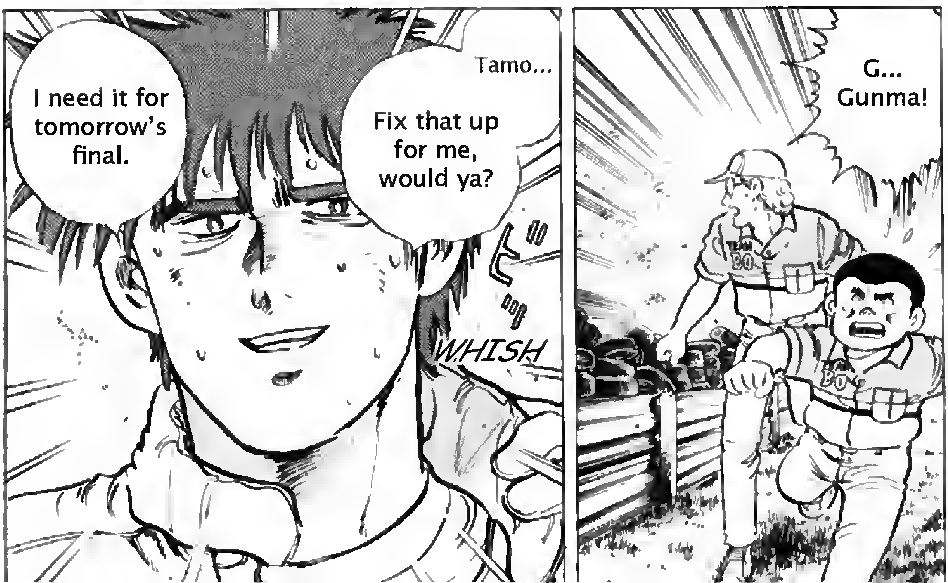

KERBLAM
AKABO
TEAM
BO


Did he just crash!?
D...


Shell

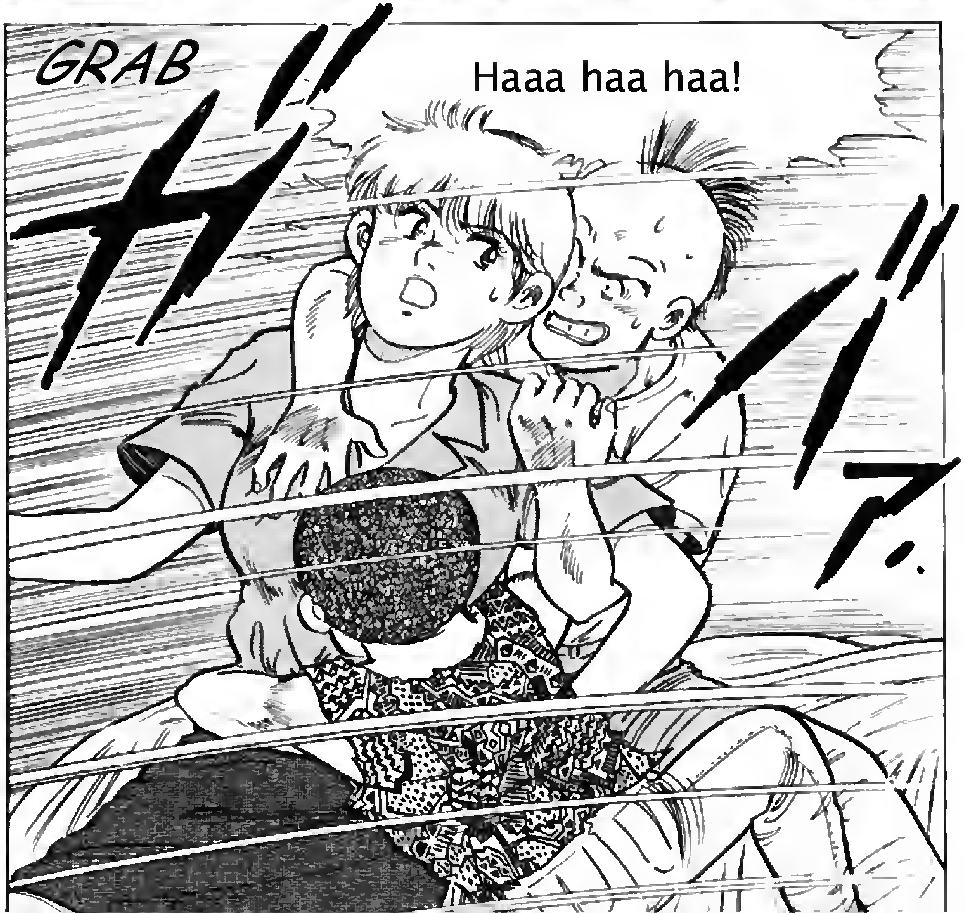
WAHH
7up
HAYNES
Shell oils
Shell oils
Shell oils
Shell oils
Shell oils



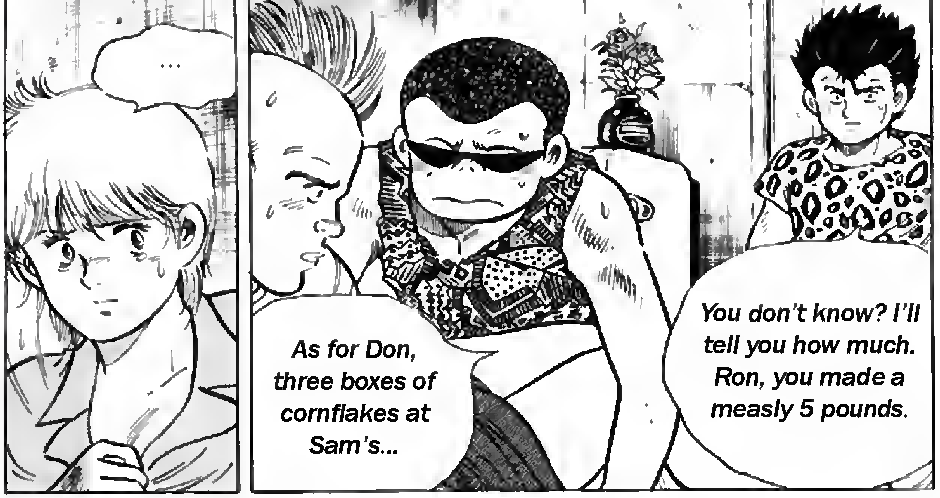

I need it for tomorrow's final.
Tamo...
Fix that up for me, would ya?
WHISH
G... Gunma!

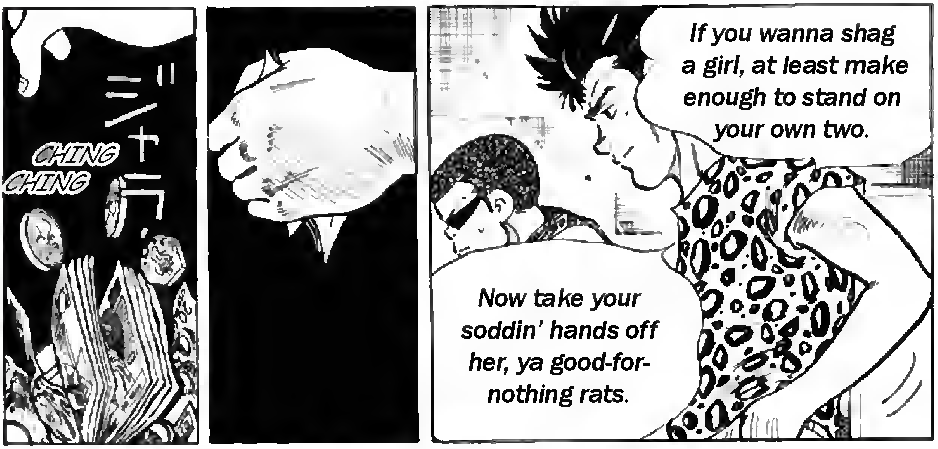
That's the kind of man he is after all, innit!
But we're different!
We're real badasses!
Woohoo! Peabow ain't here!
He's probably out there snatchin' some poor lady's purse just to pay the bills!
GRAB
We're the ones you wanna fall for!
That's right! You know you want it!
Hah hah! "Cut it out," she says!
You shagged Peabow, didn't ya?
C...Cut it out!

CLUNK
Woo!
BOING
Then you can do it with us, too!
Come on, girl, fancy a threesome?

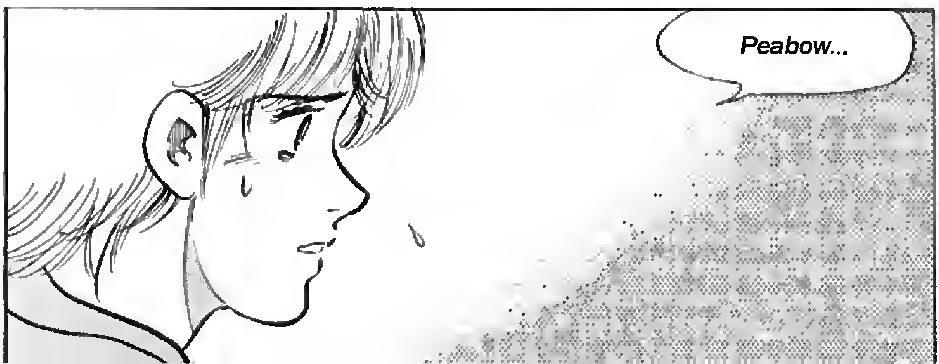

GRAB
Haaa haa haa!

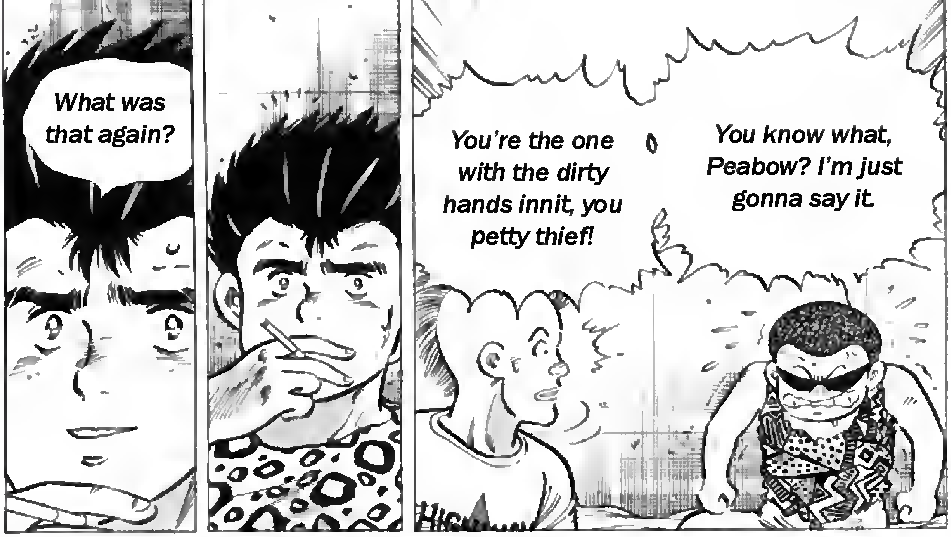
What in bloody hell is going on in here!?
KACHUK
ガチャ
This bird wants to come live here with us!
What's it look like, Peabow? Heh heh...
Me? Uh... I... How much was it?
I, uhm, well at Sam's place I made... Uhh...
Ron. Don.
How much did you two make last week?
Come on, spit it out.
That's right! This hideout belongs to the three of us!
We have just as much right shag her as you do!

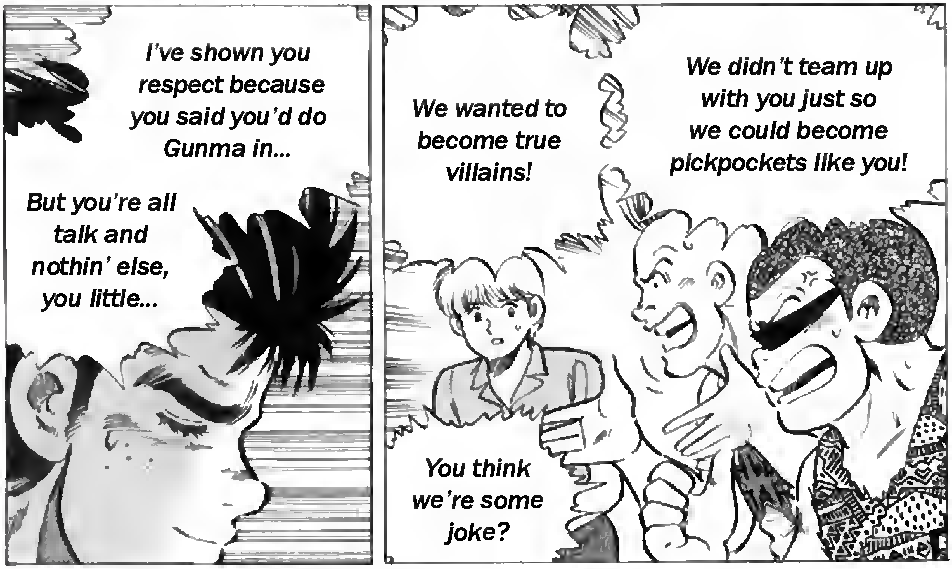

...
As for Don, three boxes of cornflakes at Sam's...
You don't know? I'll tell you how much. Ron, you made a measly 5 pounds.


CHING CHING
If you wanna shag a girl, at least make enough to stand on your own two.
Now take your soddin' hands off her, ya good-for-nothing rats.

CLICK
THUD


Peabow...

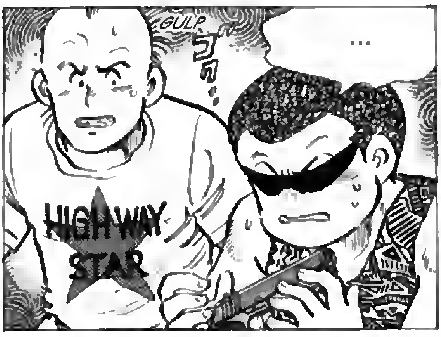

What was that again?
You're the one with the dirty hands innit, you petty thief!
You know what, Peabow? I'm just gonna say it.


I've shown you respect because you said you'd do Gunma in...
But you're all talk and nothin' else, you little...
We wanted to become true villains!
We didn't team up with you just so we could become pickpockets like you!
You think we're some joke?

Whoa, man, what are you doing!?
Peabow...!?

He's at Brands Hatch now.
If you really got it in you, then go do it! There's three bullets left.

I'll even work for you.
If you can pull it off, this bird is yours to do as you please.

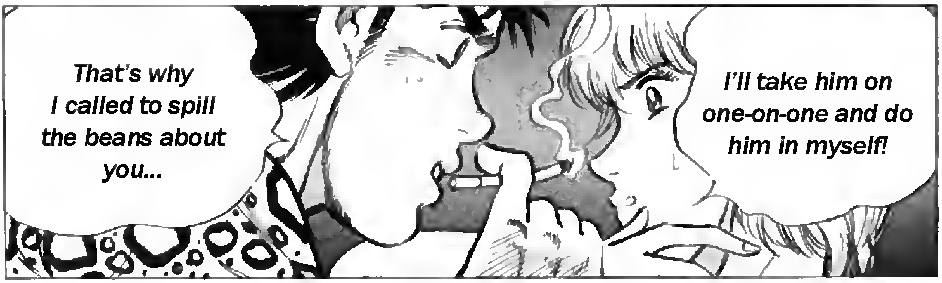

GULP
...
HIGHWAY STAR

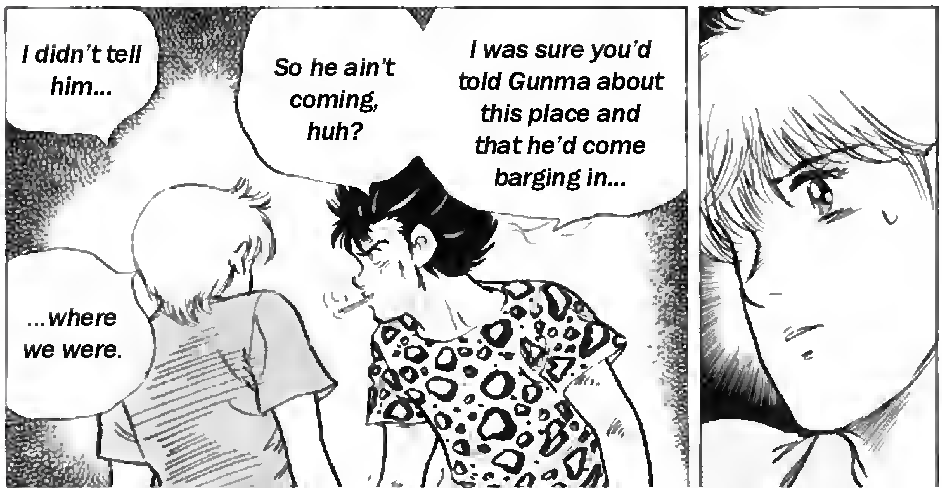
S...Stop this, Peabow!
Well, go on! It's your chance to become true villains!

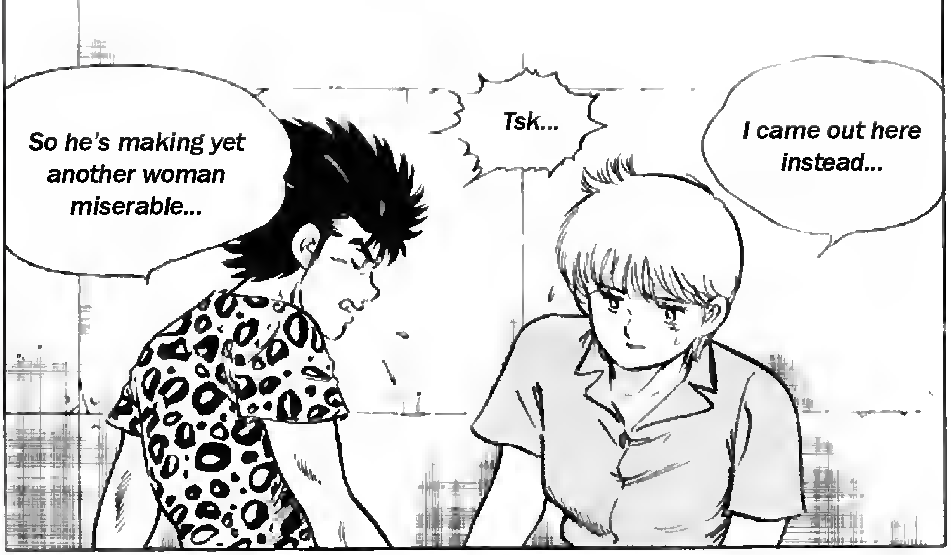
Junko.
Just hold on, both of you!
SLAM

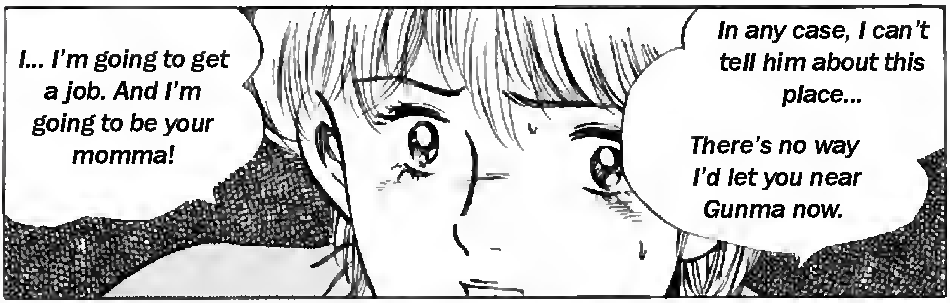
Better keep your word, Peabow!
All right, you just wait.

Just leave it... They won't be able to pull it off.
SQUEEZE
Gunma won't be that easy to take down...
Let go of me!


That's why I called to spill the beans about you...
I'll take him on one-on-one and do him in myself!

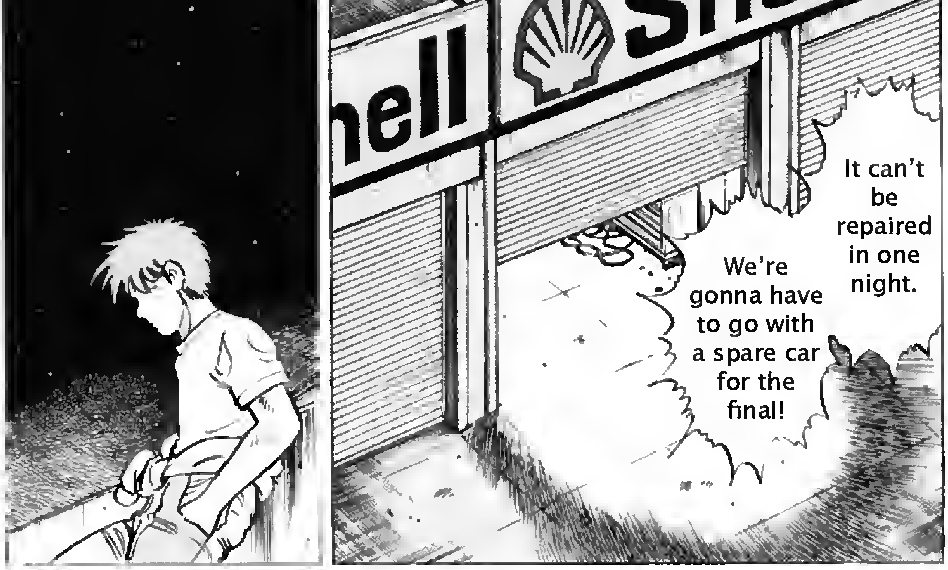

I didn't tell him...
So he ain't coming, huh?
I was sure you'd told Gunma about this place and that he'd come barging in...
...where we were.


So he's making yet another woman miserable...
Tsk...
I came out here instead...


I... I'm going to get a job. And I'm going to be your momma!
In any case, I can't tell him about this place...
There's no way I'd let you near Gunma now.

Before any of that...
I'm gonna kill him!

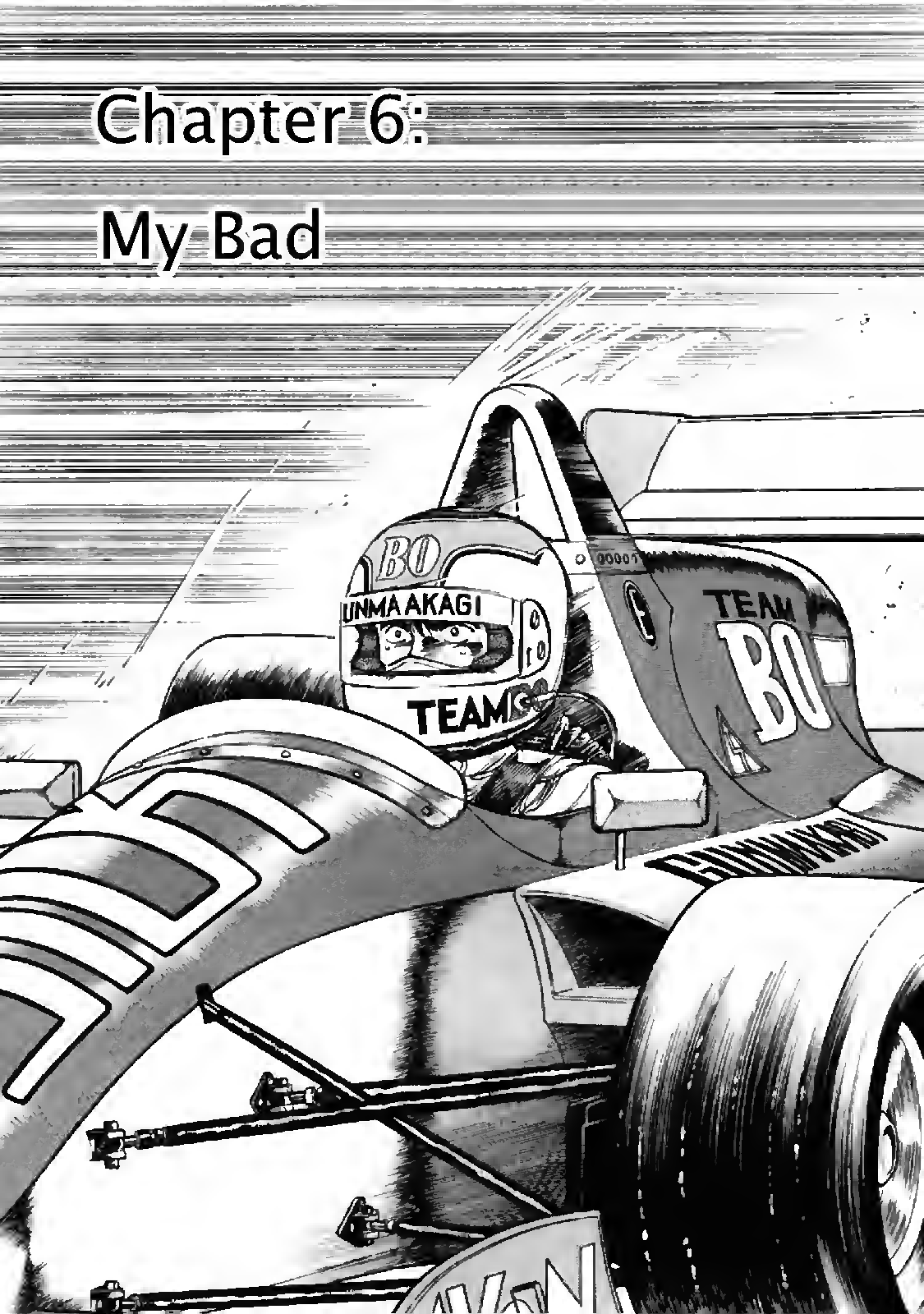
Momma...!
...

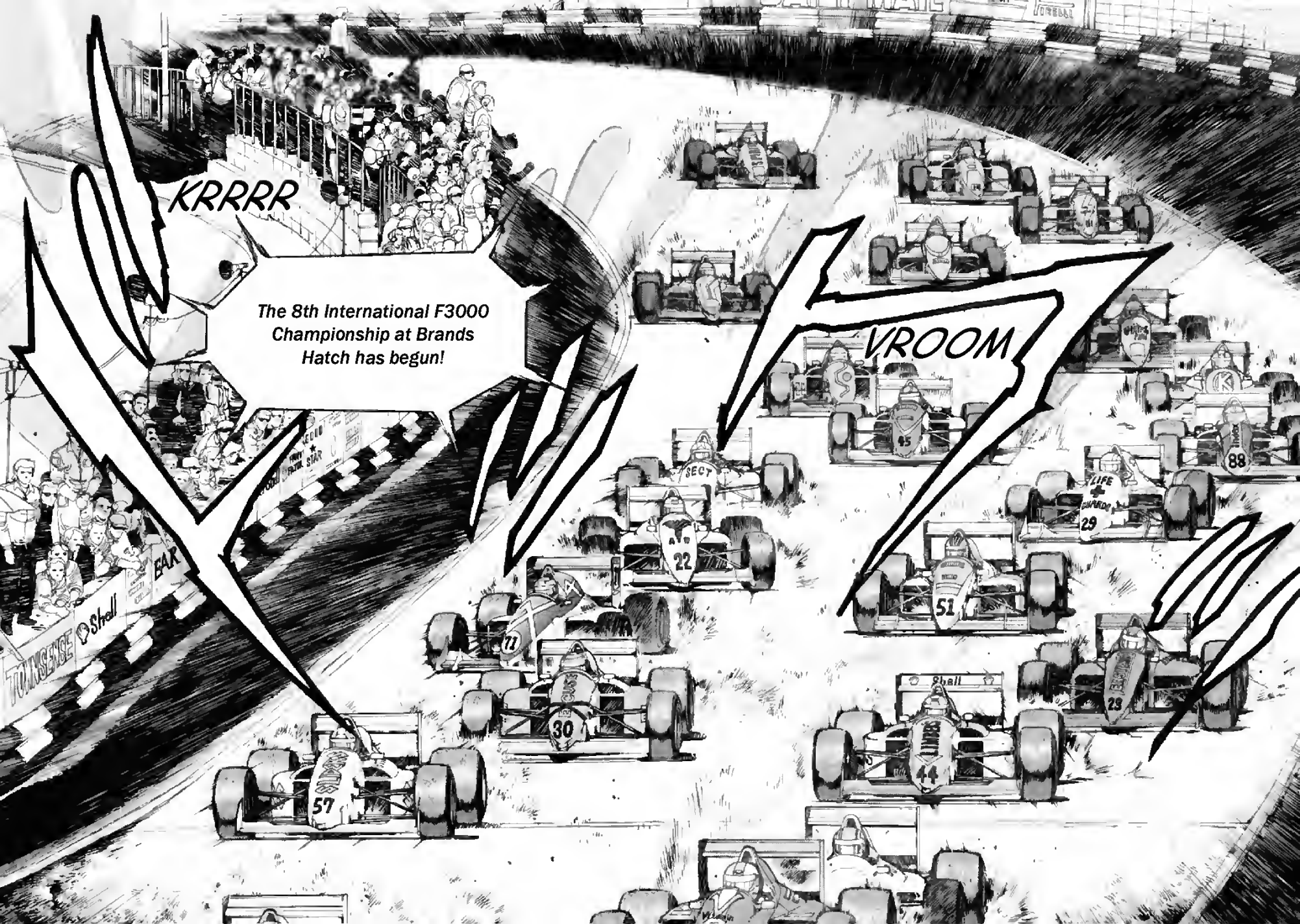

It can't be repaired in one night.
We're gonna have to go with a spare car for the final!

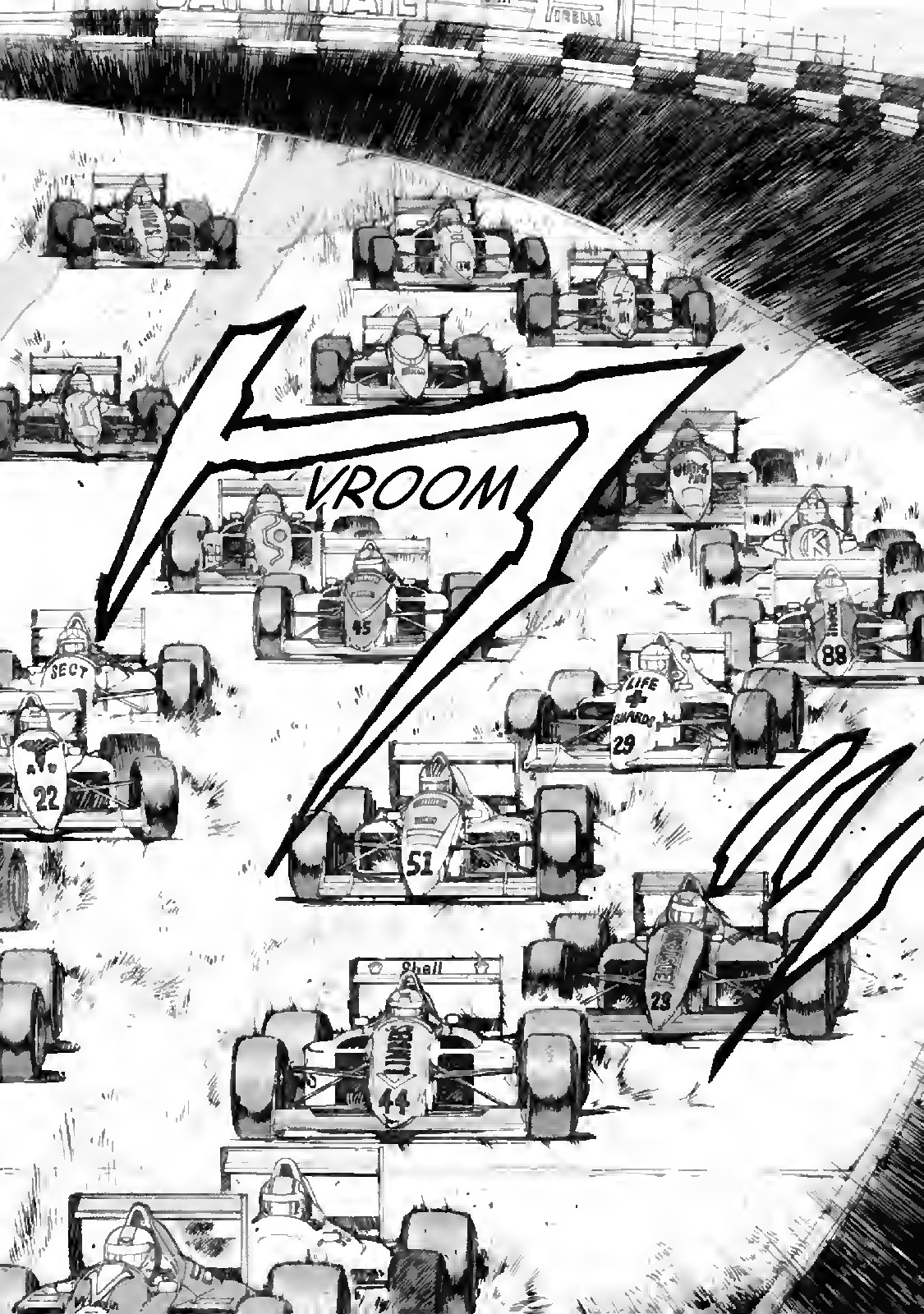
It's no use, Tamotsu! That was a serious crash. The whole balance will be off!
Wait, Mr. Orman! Lemme try an' repair it!

...
!?
I... I think I know what he meant!
"Off-balance..." Mr. Tyrrell was trying to teach me something.

Chapter 6:
My Bad

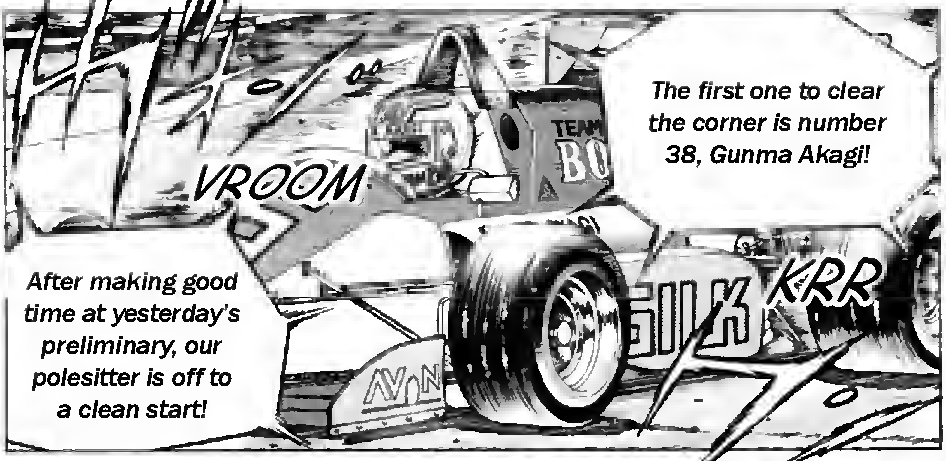


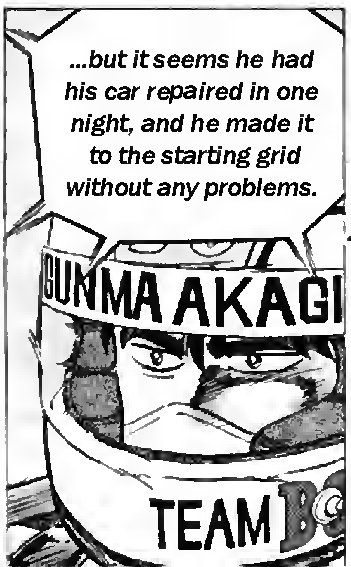

KRRRR
The 8th International F3000 Championship at Brands Hatch has begun!
VROOM
Shell
EAR
TOWNSENSE
SECT
LIFE
Shell

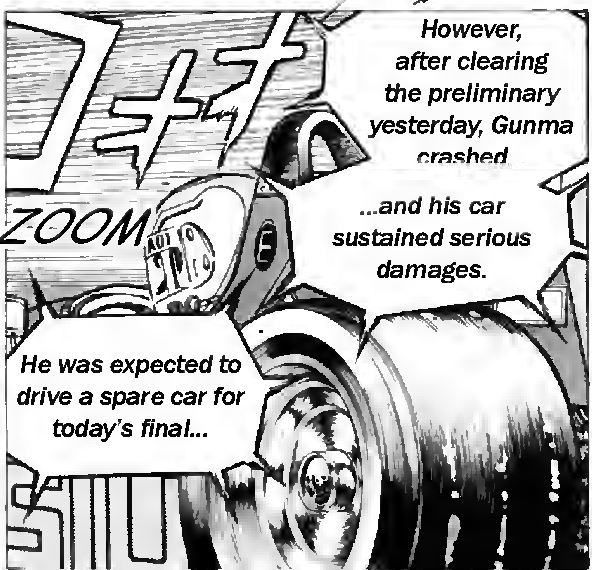

VROOM
SECT
22
45
51
29
88
Shell
44
23

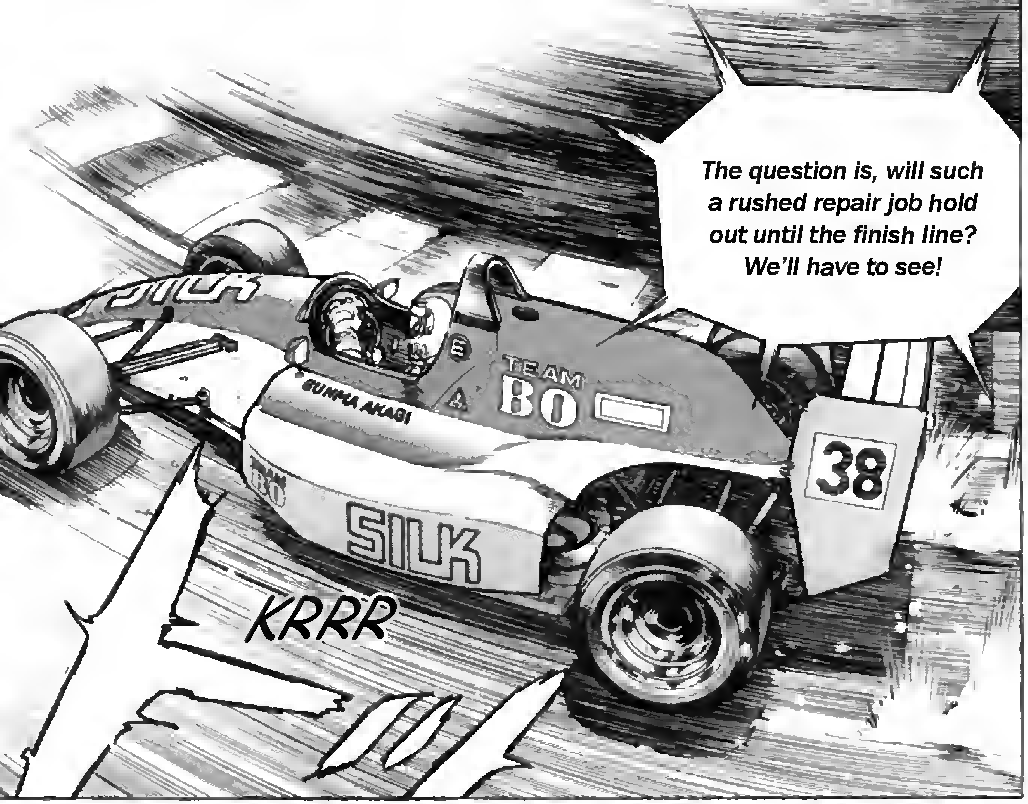
KRRRR
The 8th International F3000 Championship at Brands Hatch has begun!
BAR
Shell
TOTAL SENSE
57
11
30

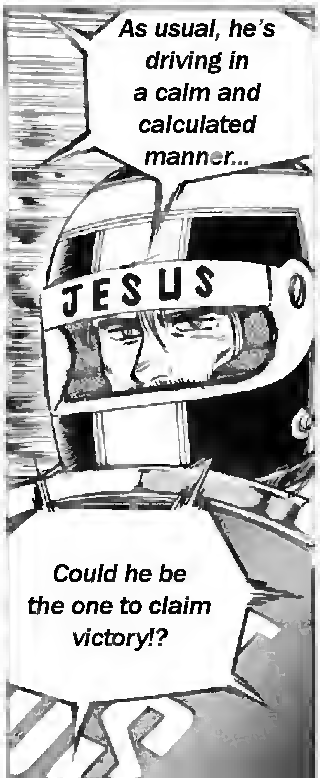
ZOOOOOOM
All racers are now simultaneously taking the first corner!

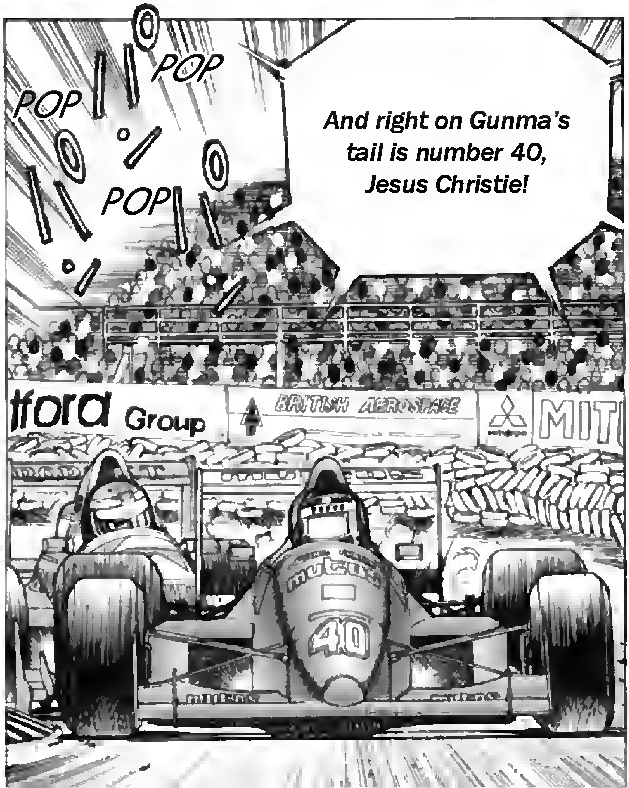

VROOM
The first one to clear the corner is number 38, Gunma Akagi!
After making good time at yesterday's preliminary, our polesitter is off to a clean start!


...but it seems he had his car repaired in one night, and he made it to the starting grid without any problems.
GUNMA AKAGI


However, after clearing the preliminary yesterday, Gunma crashed
...and his car sustained serious damages.
ZOOM
He was expected to drive a spare car for today's final...


The question is, will such a rushed repair job hold out until the finish line? We'll have to see!
SILK
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM BO
38
SILK
KRRR


As usual, he's driving in a calm and calculated manner...
JESUS
Could he be the one to claim victory!?


POP
POP
POP
And right on Gunma's tail is number 40, Jesus Christie!
Group
BRITISH AEROSPACE
40

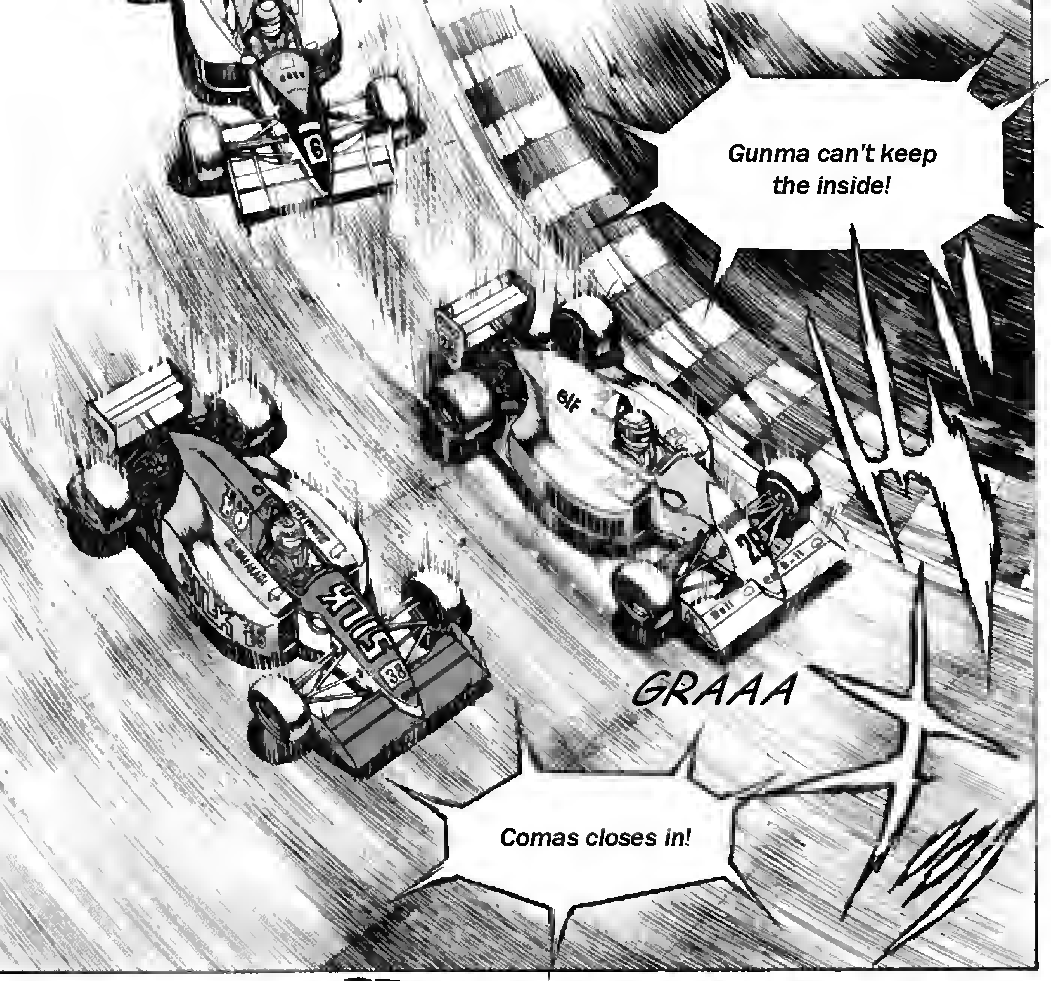
VROOOM
Heh, it was mostly a matter of replacing parts.
Wow.
You actually managed to repair it, Tamotsu.
ZOOM
Off-balance...
Is that your take on what Ken Tyrrell was trying to tell you?
Up to Gunma ...?
...the rest is up to Gunma.
The suspension system is aligned, but...
But...
IKAGI
TEAM
Well, not exactly...
TEAM

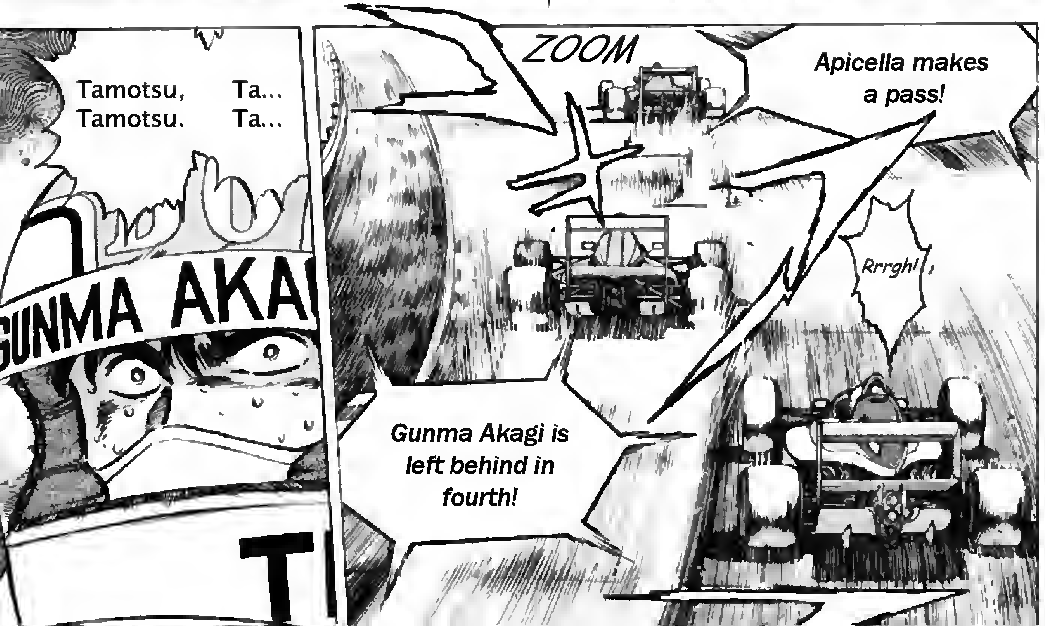
...it might be a good idea to make Gunma angry...
Once in a while...
But?
RUT
TUT
TUT
Wait, what the heli?
Hey...
I'm understeering on the corners!
I'm not getting enough downforce!
...but I don't feel any traction in the tires...
I can drive in a straight line...
AKAGI
TEAM 80

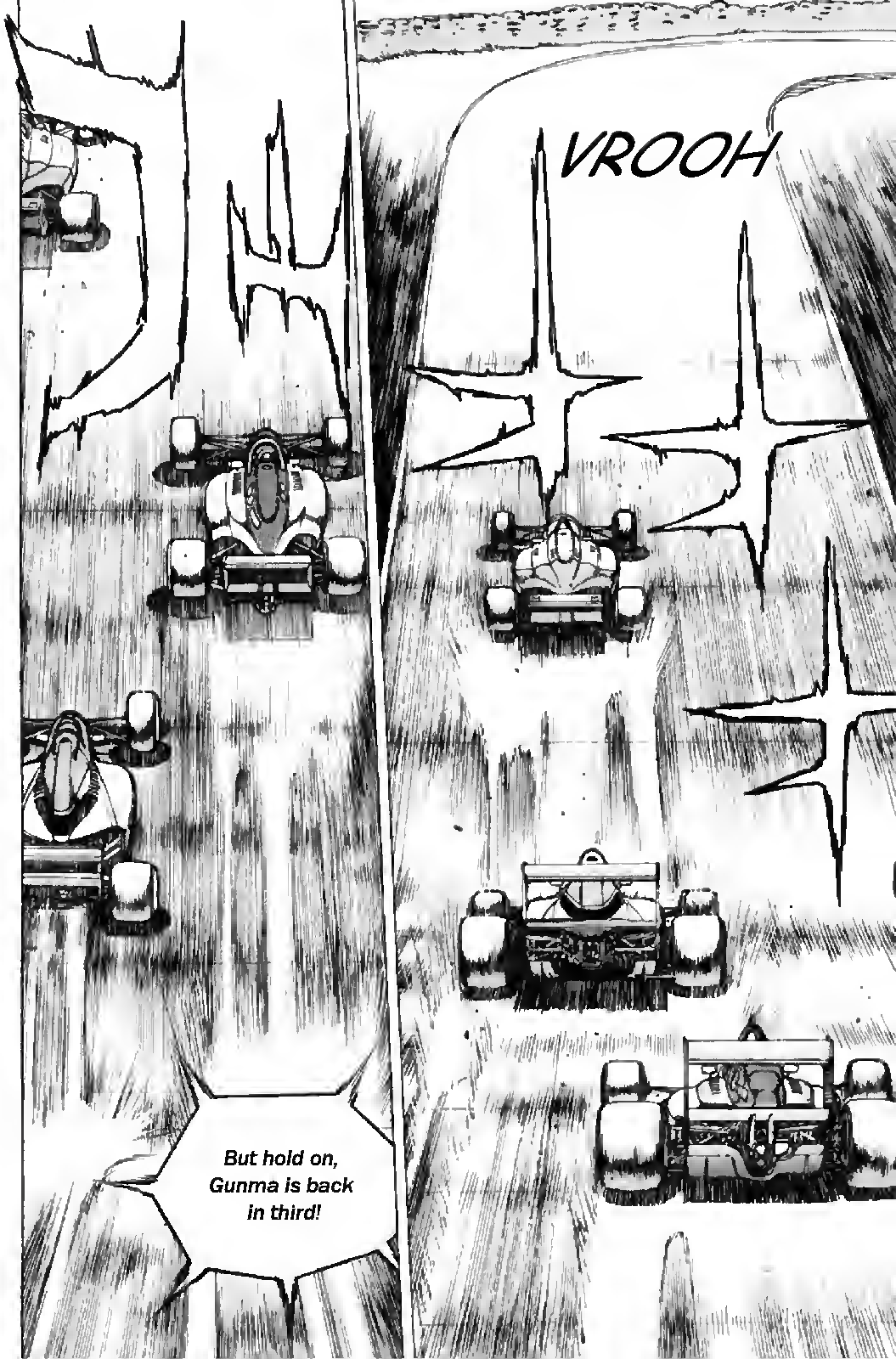
Here he comes.
T... Ta...
Dammit, Tamotsu!
GUNMA AKAGI
All you did was slap a bunch of parts together!
Heh...
Tamo-tsu...
Hmm, he managed to stay in first for the first lap!
SLIP
That's for sure...
He is pissed...
ZOOOM
GUNMA AKAGI

...you did a half-assed job.
So, basi-cally...
...
Heh, didn't think you had it in you...
Pretty much.
He ain't driving like he was in the preliminary...
VROOM
Whoa! Jesus is now catching up to Gunma in first after taking the Graham Hill Bend!
Up next is the Cooper Straight! Let's see what Jesus can do!

KRR
JES
I don't have any bad premonition...
I'm gonna go for it.
He makes the pass! Jesus has overtaken Gunma for first!
VROOM
38
BO
SILK
And now Comas and Apicella are aiming to make a pass on the left turn at Surtees!
ZOOM
Jesus ...
J...
BO
GUNMAAKAGI
TEAM

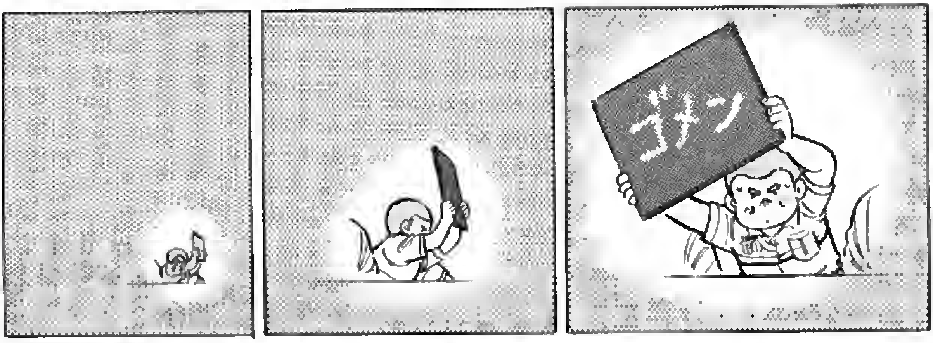

Gunma can't keep the inside!
elf
GRAAA
Comas closes in!


Tamotsu, Ta...
Tamotsu. Ta...
GUNMA AKA
ZOOM
Apicella makes a pass!
Rrrgh!
Gunma Akagi is left behind in fourth!


VROOH
But hold on, Gunma is back in third!

Heh heh, let him go on...
He's saying he's gonna kill you, Tamotsu.
Gunma Akagi is struggling to keep his position!
Could his car still be damaged from the crash at the preliminary!?
FWOOSH
DONLUP
WHISH
GUNMA AKAGI

GUNMA AKA
!?
MY BAD
ゴメン


ゴメン

...bad!?
My...
My...

...
...in perfect shape, is it?
So...
...the car isn't exactly...

ZOOM

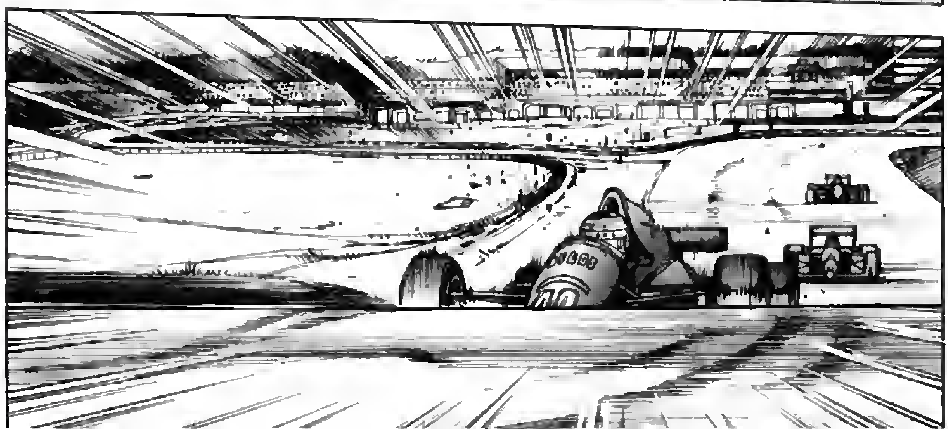
...the man driving it isn't perfect either.
On top of that...

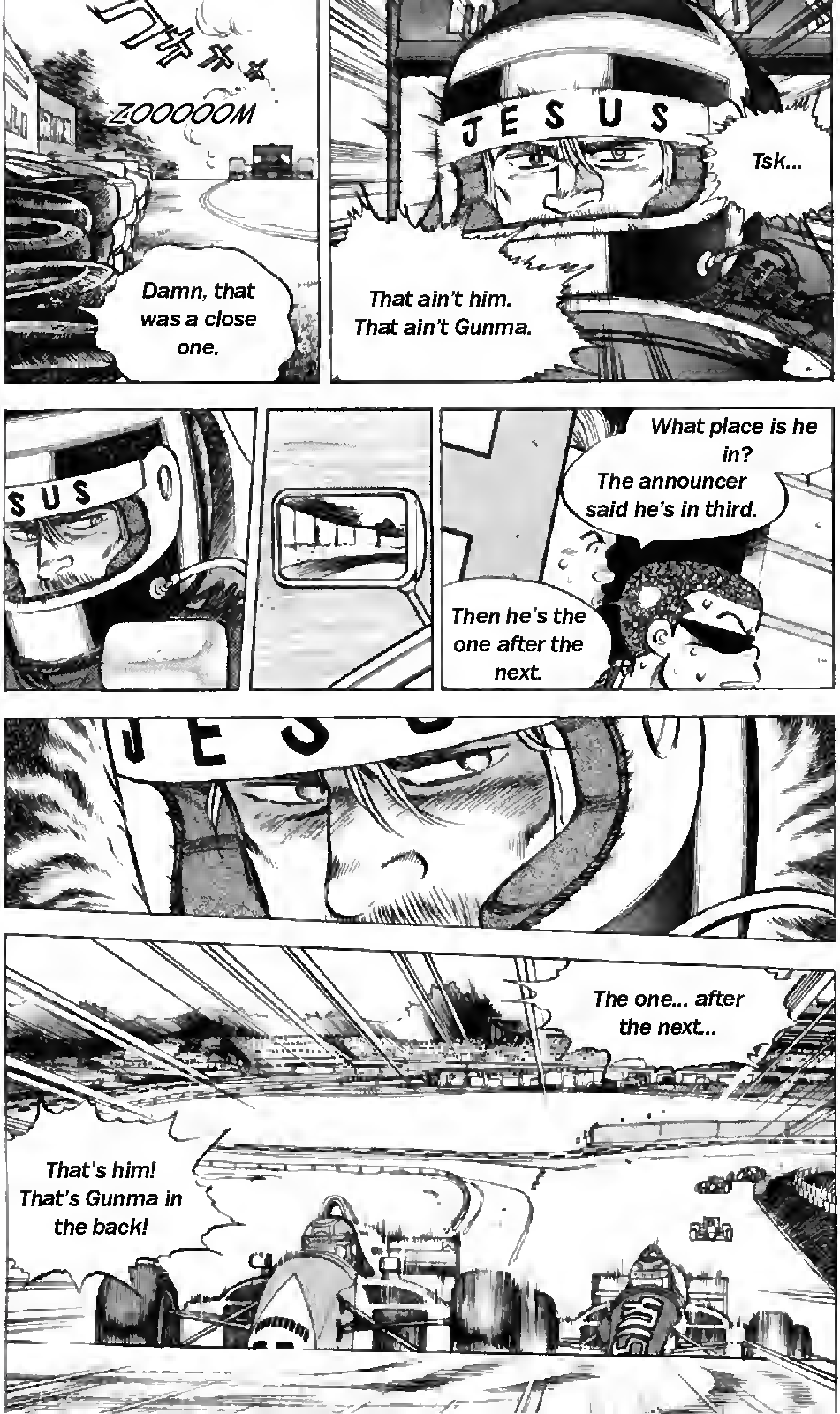
AKAGI

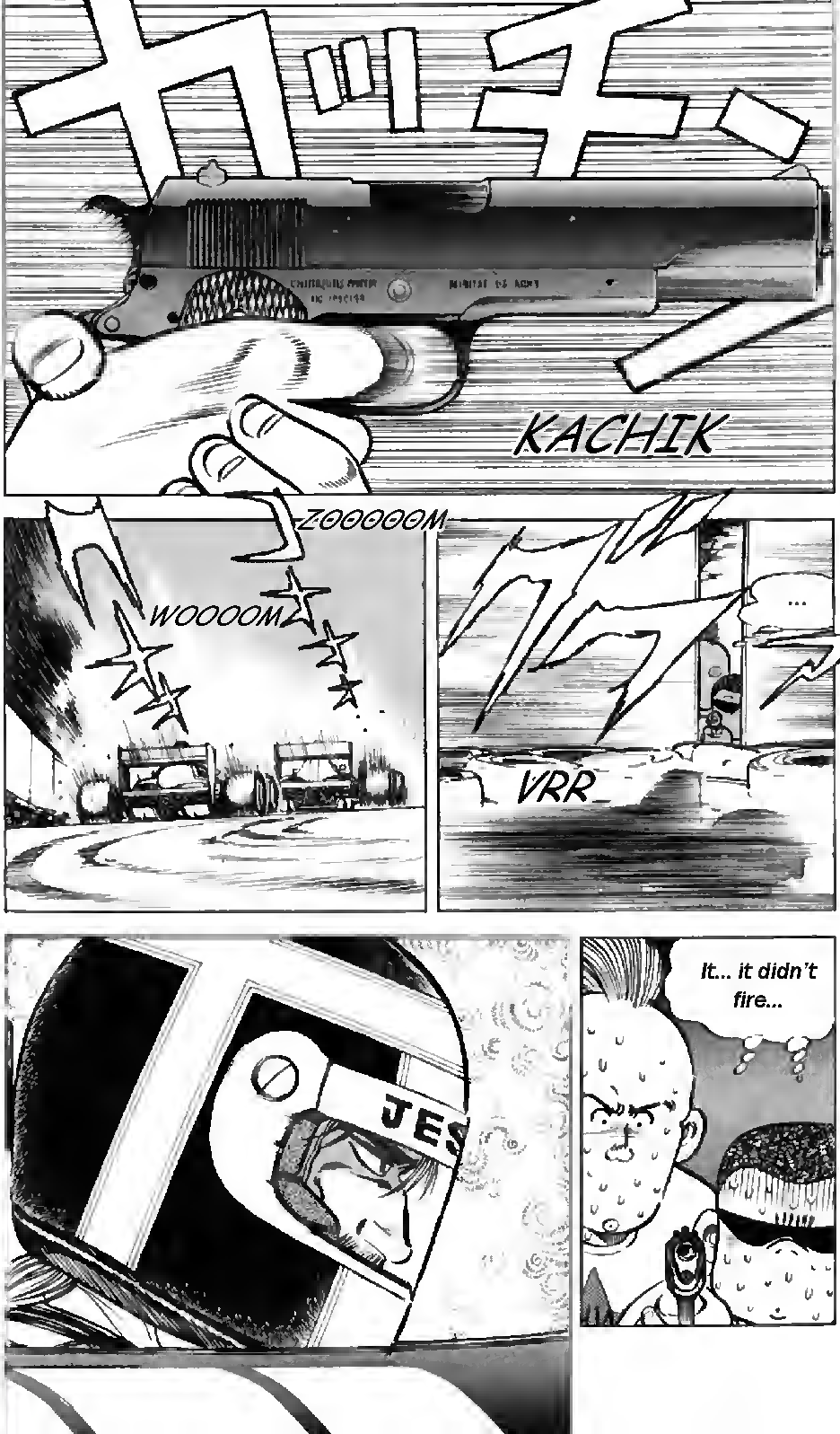
We're gonna take out Gunma, and show that damn Peabow what we're made of!
Are we really gonna do this?
Damn right we are!
What're we supposed to do...!?
NSE
Idiot! We just gotta do it!

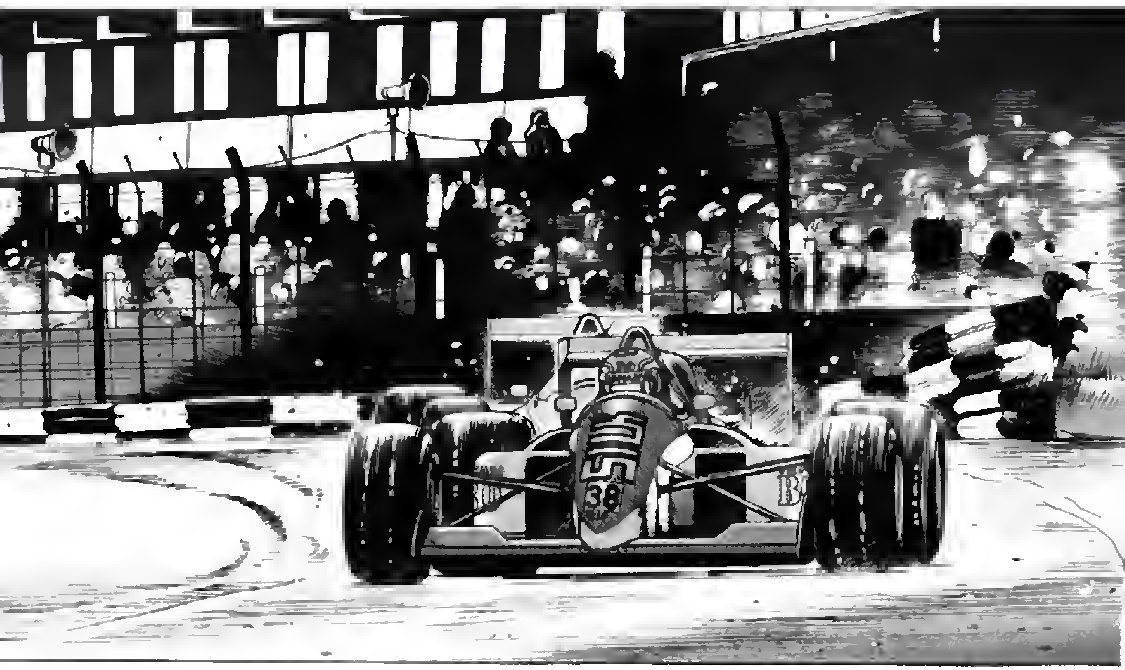
This long, straight stretch goes uphill. This is the perfect sniping spot! We'll be able to hit him from the front!
Just you watch! This ain't no trick like last time. This is a real shooter!

Here he comes!
After this, we'll be true villains.

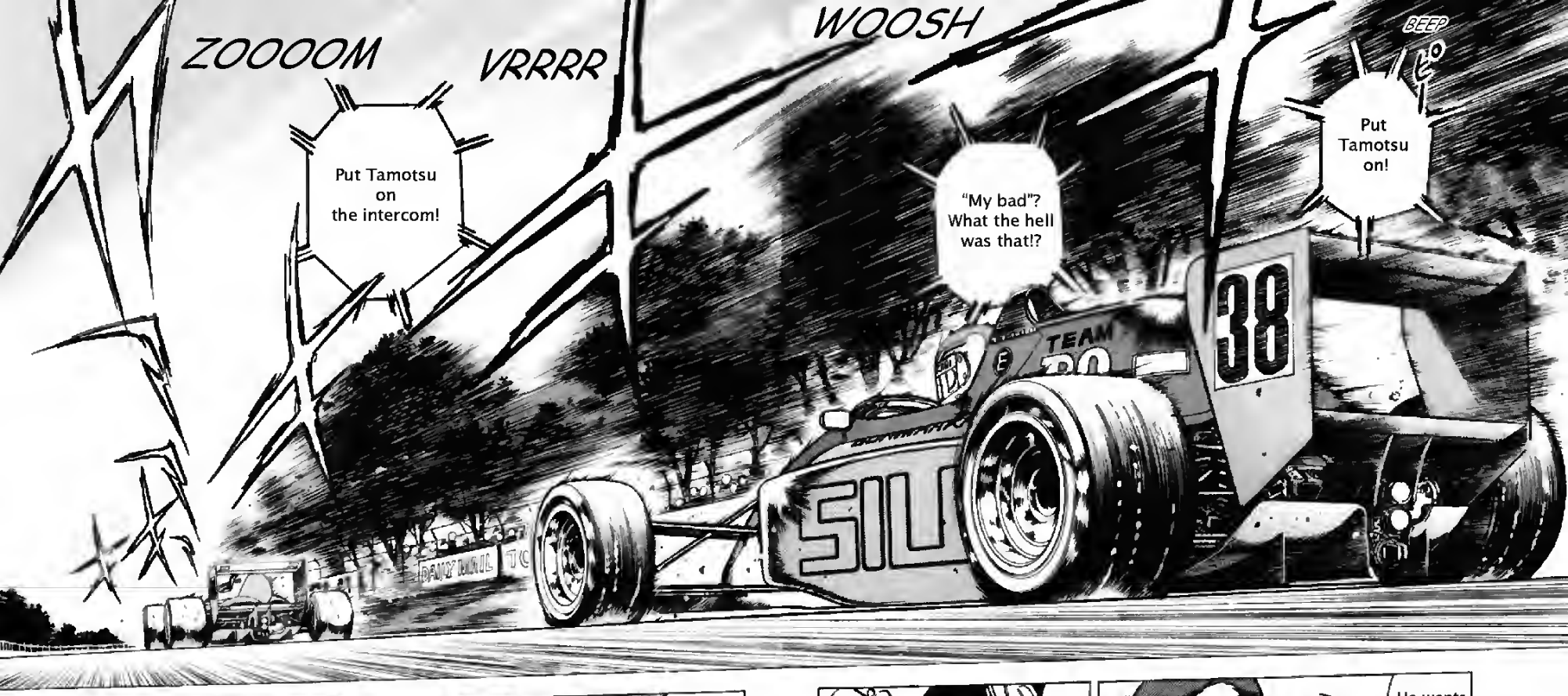



ZOOOOOM
Damn, that was a close one.
JESUS
Tsk...
That ain't him. That ain't Gunma.
SUS
What place is he in?
The announcer said he's in third.
Then he's the one after the next.
The one... after the next...
That's him! That's Gunma in the back!


KACHIK
ZOOOOOM
WOOOOM
...
VRR
It... it didn't fire...

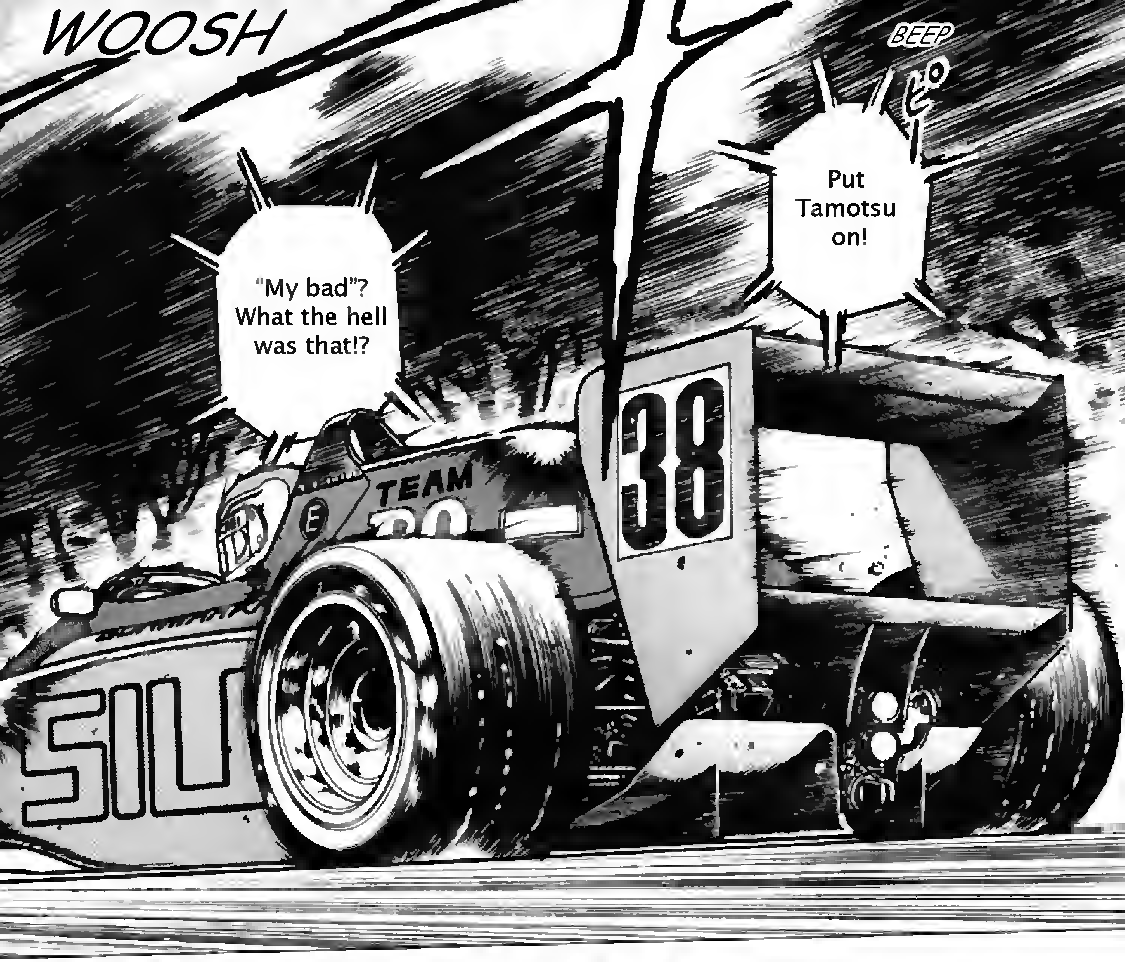


Chapter 7:
In Shambles


ZOOOOM
VRRRR
WOOSH
BEEP
Put Tamotsu on the intercom!
"My bad"? What the hell was that!?
Put Tamotsu on!
38
TEAM
SIU

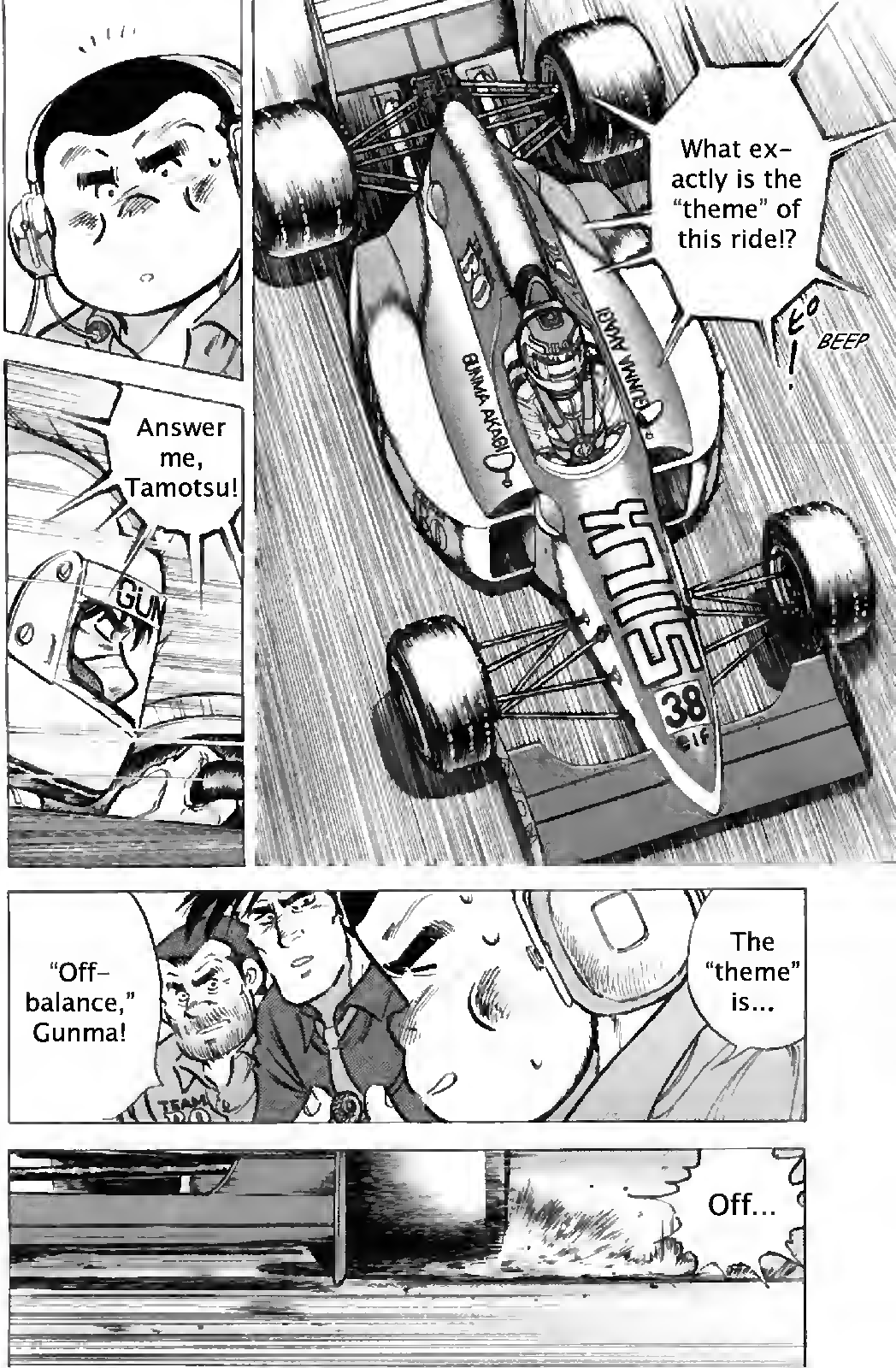
Well, okay.
...!?
Uhh ...
VRRN
I'll ask you one thing!
I'll make this short.
VRRR
38

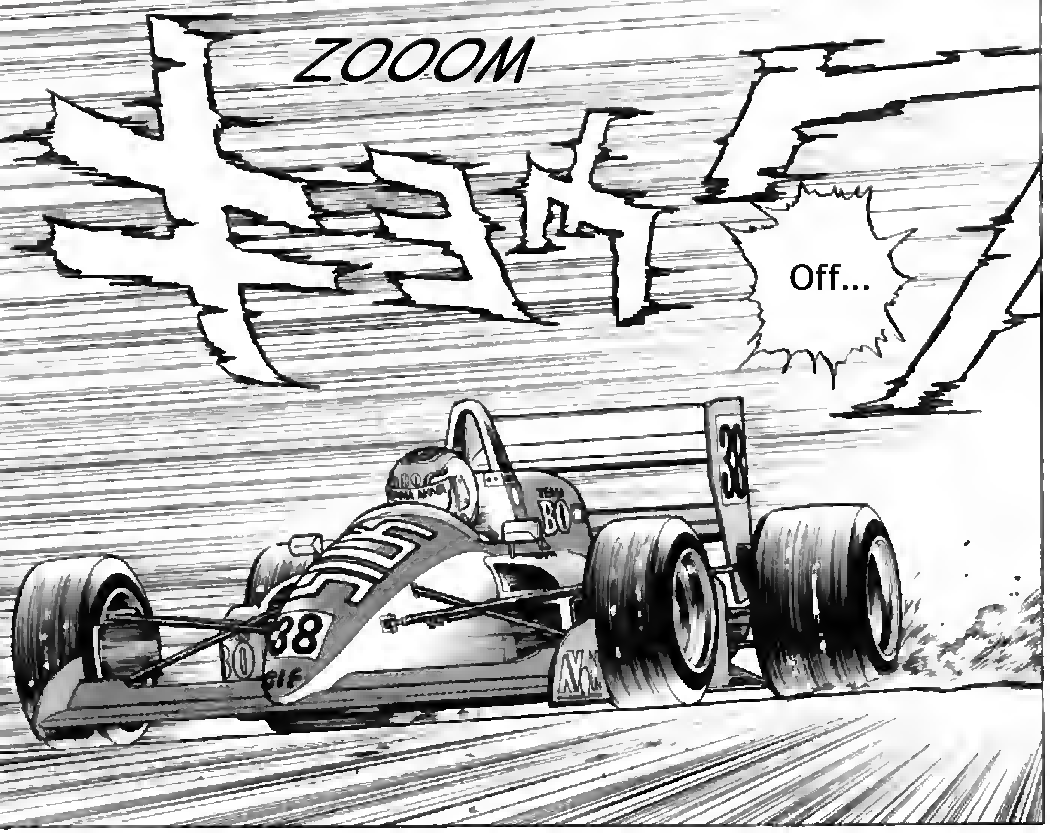
...
He wants to speak with you...
KRR
It's me.
Hello? Hey, Gunma.
GRIP
KRR


WOOSH
BEEP
Put Tamotsu on!
"My bad"? What the hell was that!?
38
TEAM

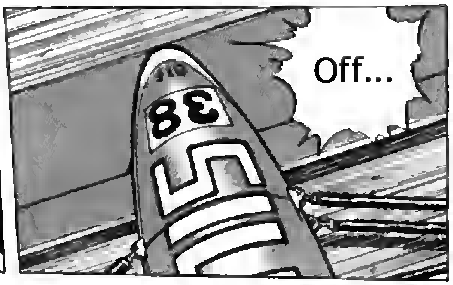
...
He wants to speak with you...
KRR
It's me.
Hello? Hey, Gunma.
GRIP
KRR

ZOOOOM
VRRRR
Put Tamotsu on the intercom!
DAILY MAIL
Well, okay.
...!?
Uhh ...
VRRN
I'll ask you one thing!
I'll make this short.
VRRR
38

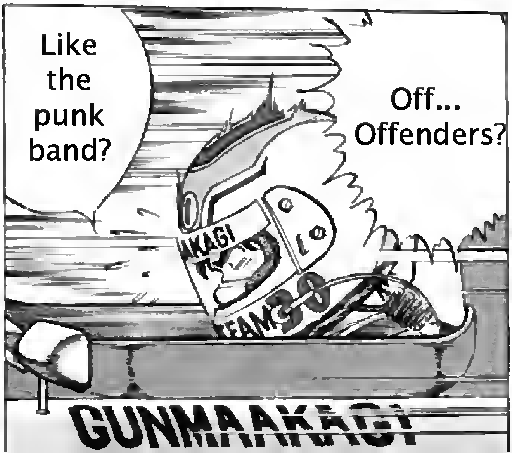

What exactly is the "theme" of this ride!?
BEEP
Answer me, Tamotsu!
GUN
GUNMA AKABOSHI
GUNMA AKABOSHI
38
"Off-balance," Gunma!
The "theme" is...
Off...

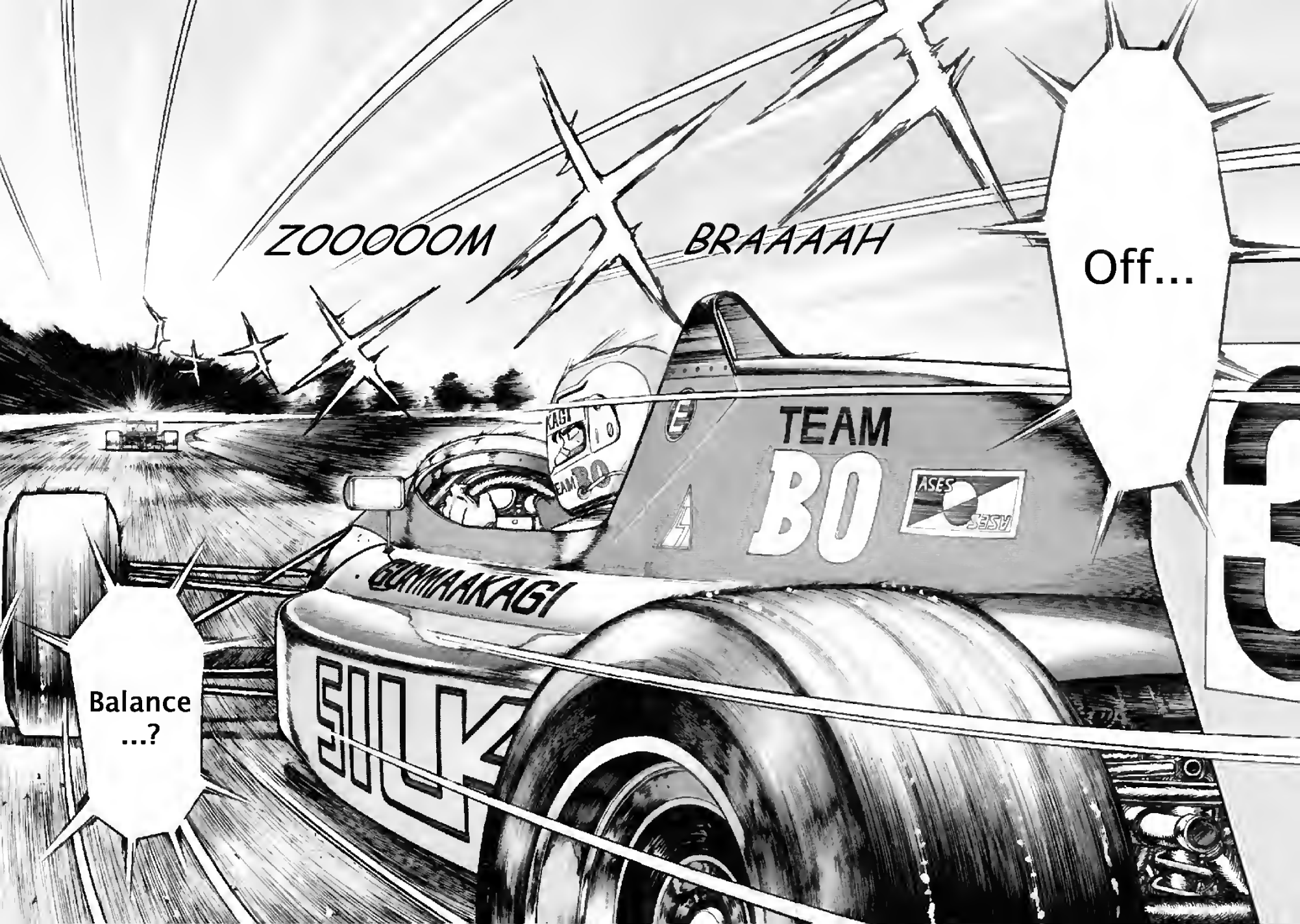

ZOOOM
Off...
38
38

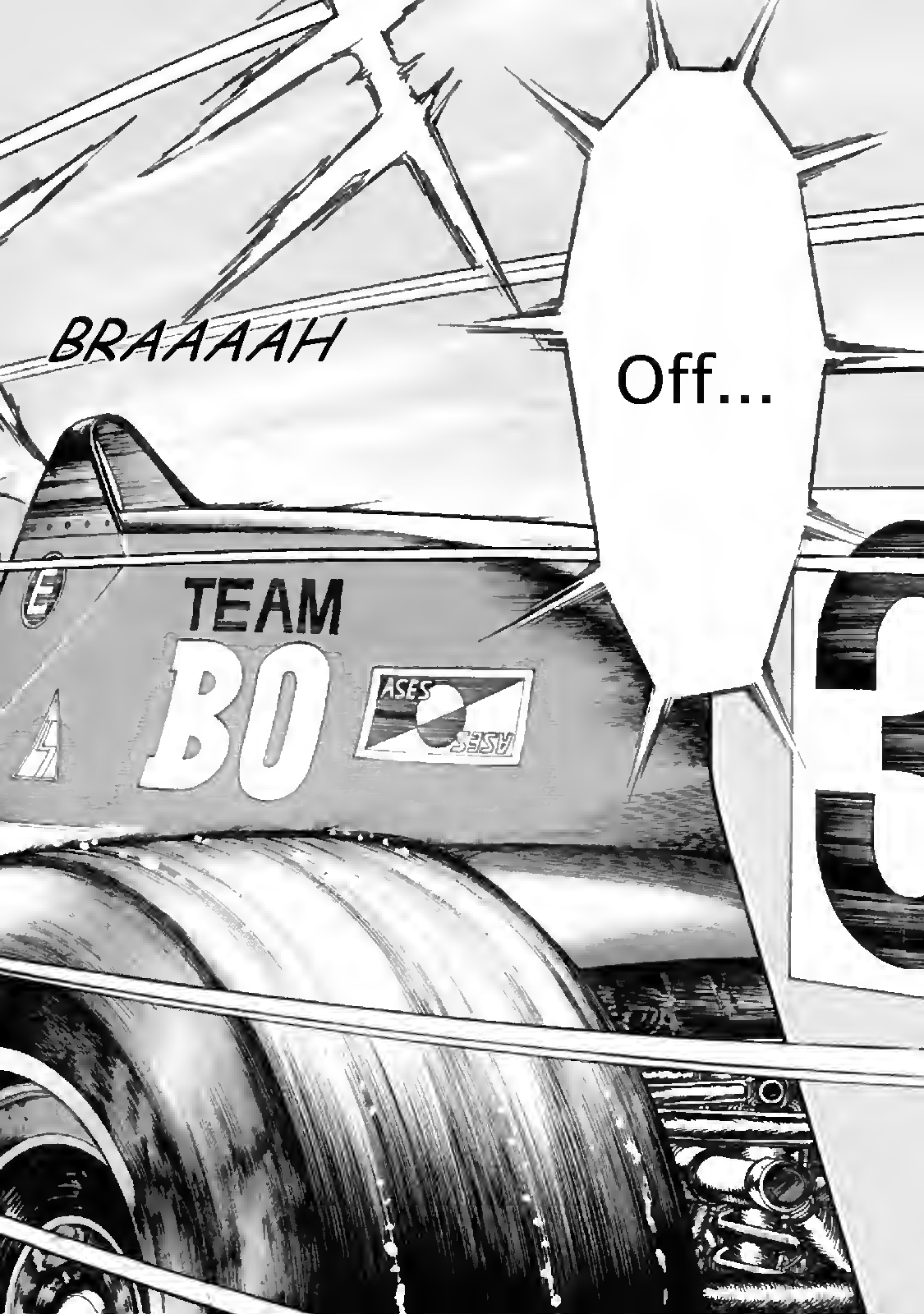
Off...
What ...?

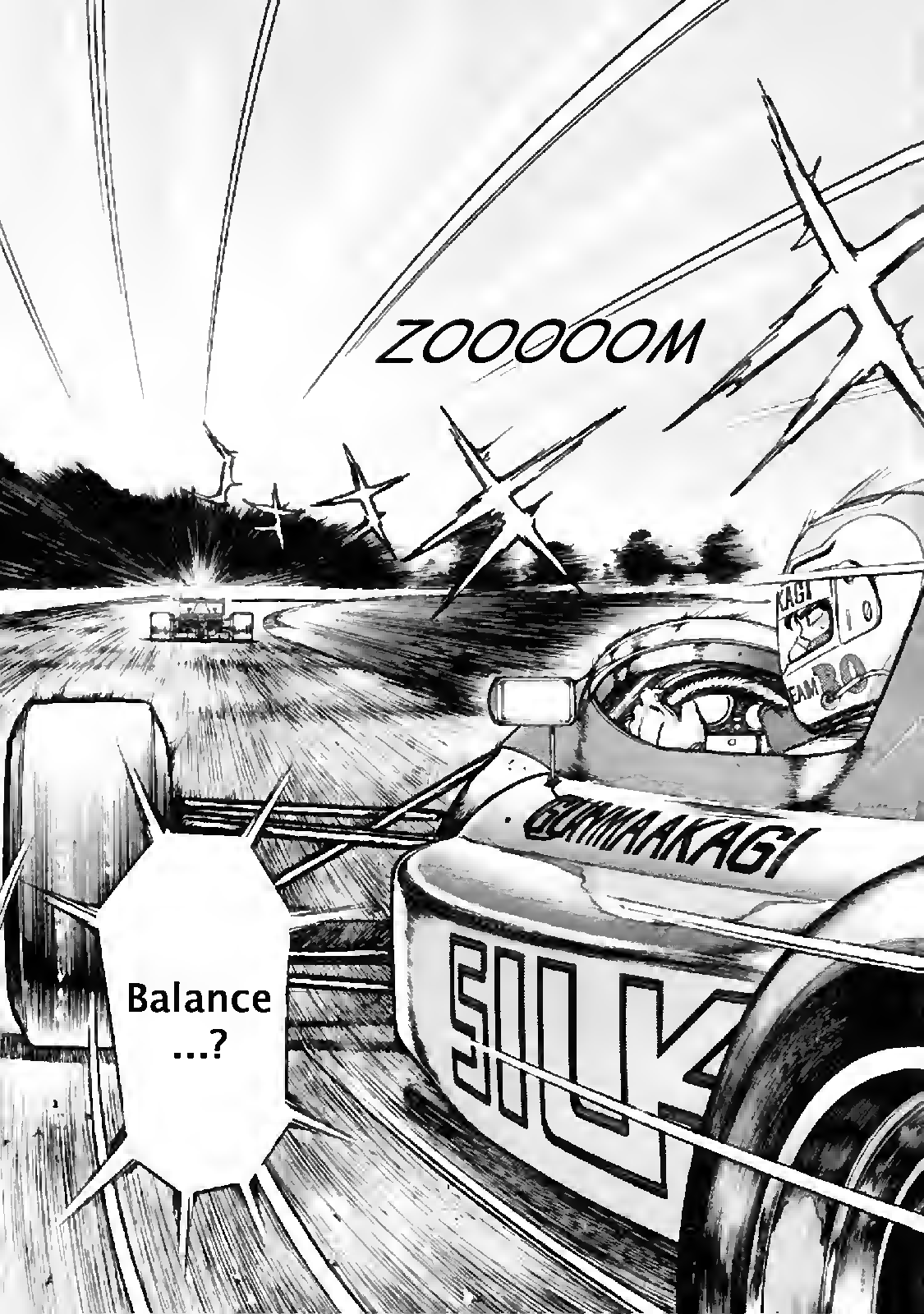

Off...
38

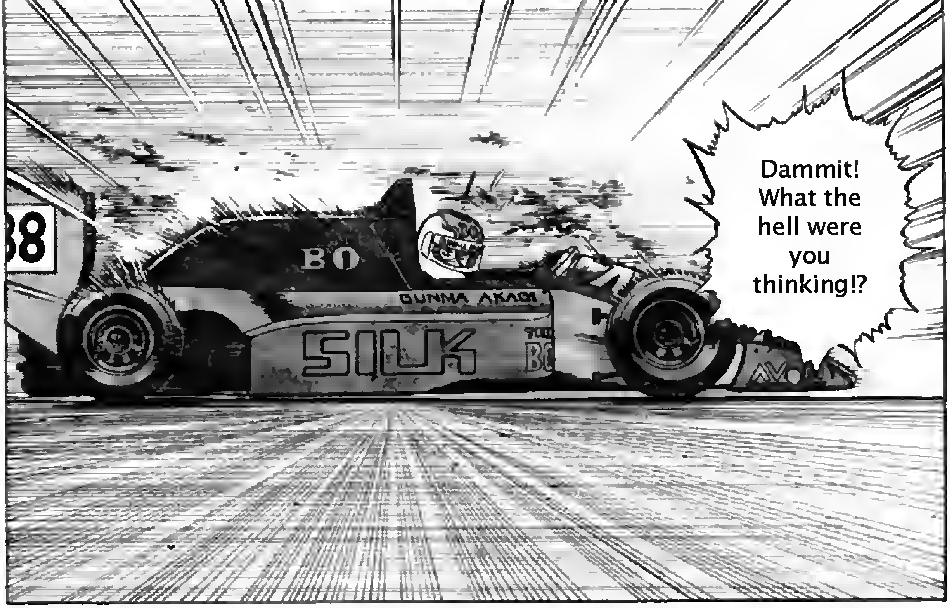
No, listen!


Like the punk band?
Off... Offenders?
GUNMAAKAGI

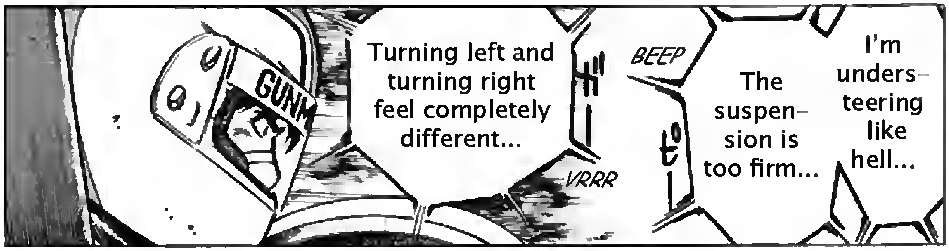

ZOOOOOM
BRAAAAH
Off...
TEAM
BO
KAGI
10
GUNMAKAGI
SUCK
Balance
...?

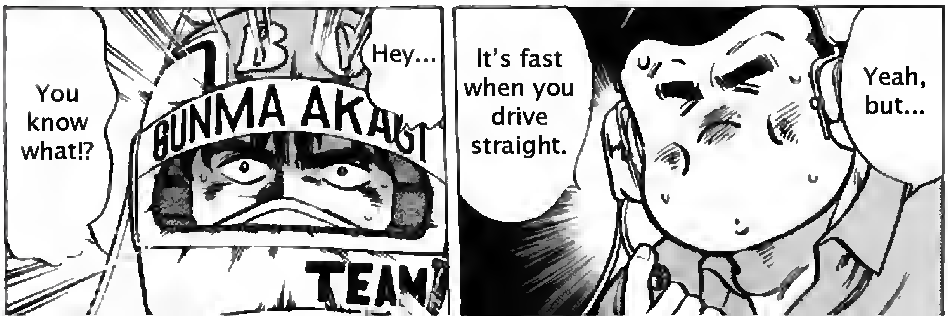

BRAAAAH
Off...
TEAM
BO
ASES

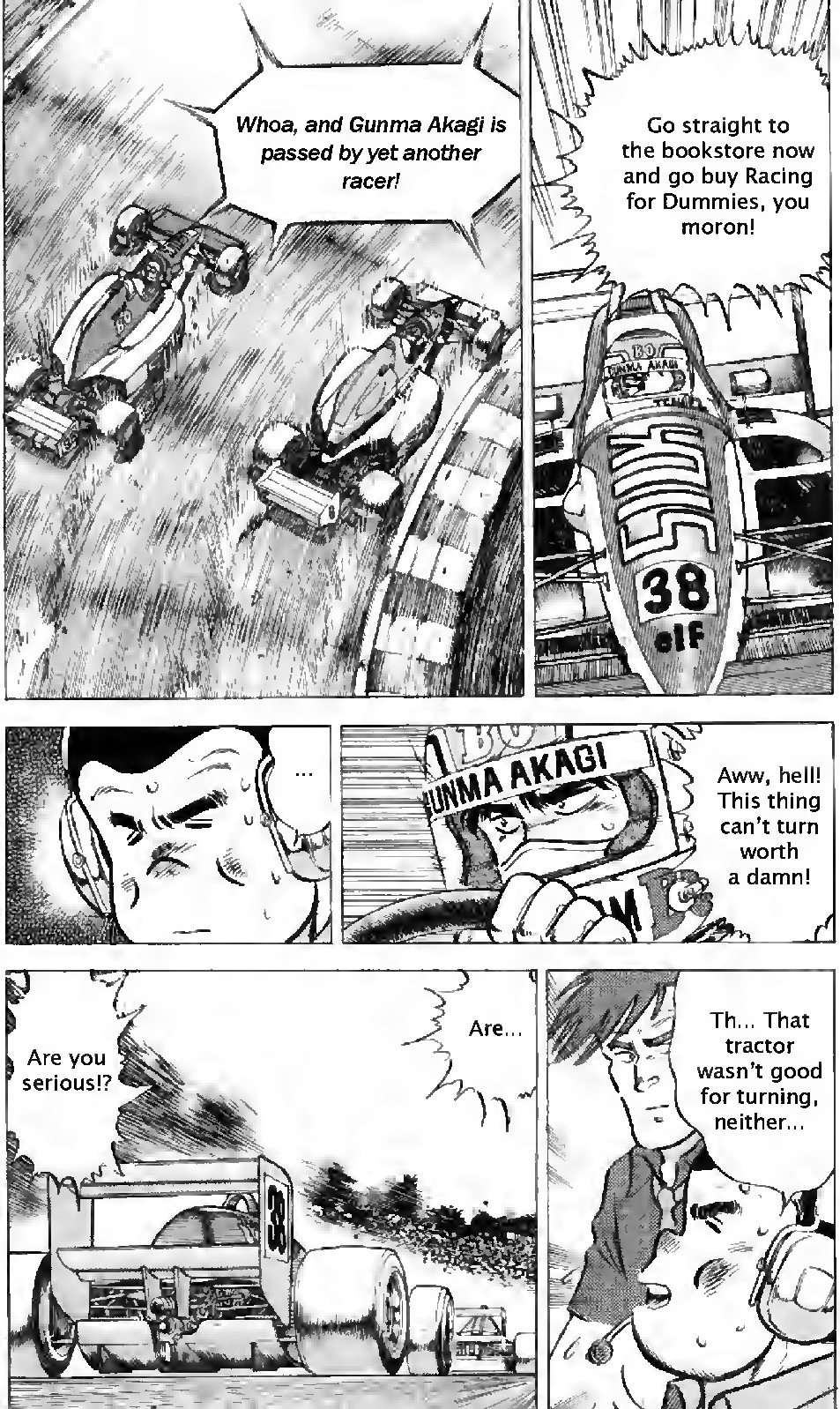

ZOOOOOM
GUMMAKAGI
Balance
...?


88
BO
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
Dammit! What the hell were you thinking!?

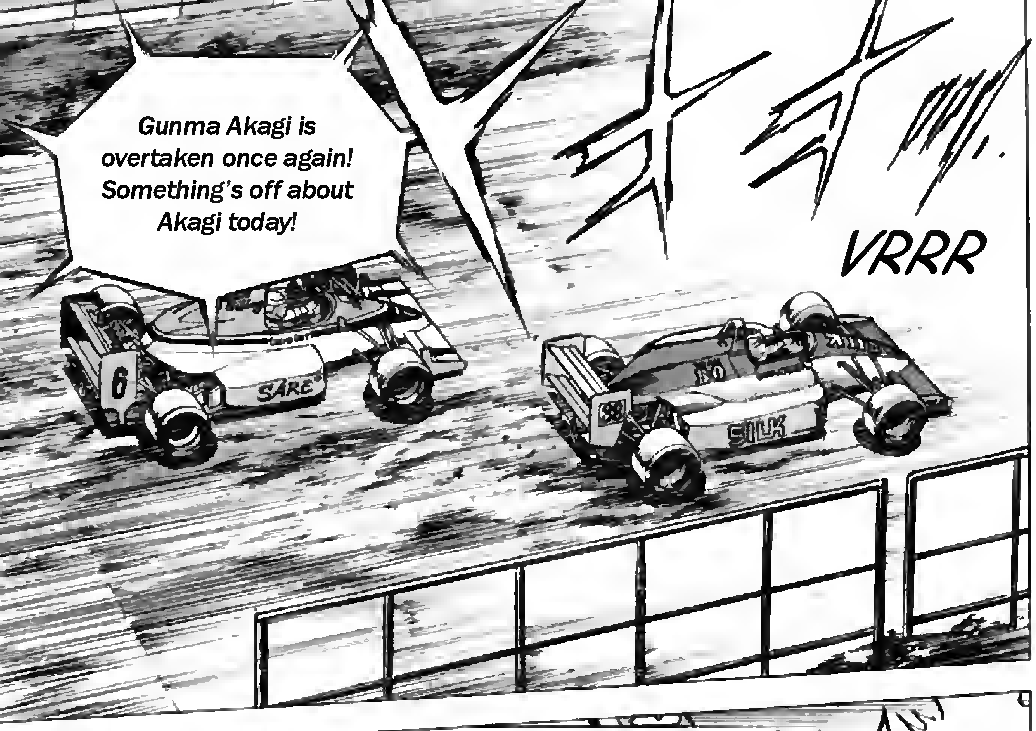
ZOOM

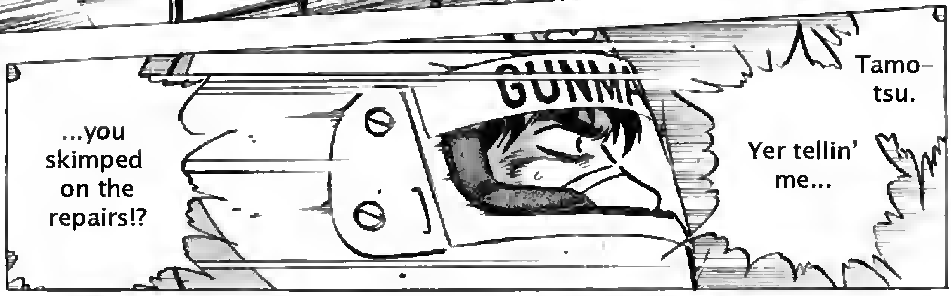

GUNM
Turning left and turning right feel completely different...
VRRR
BEEP
The suspen-sion is too firm...
I'm unders-teering like hell...

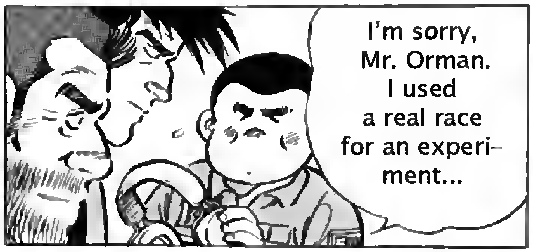

You know what!?
Hey...
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM
It's fast when you drive straight.
Yeah, but...


Whoa, and Gunma Akagi is passed by yet another racer!
Go straight to the bookstore now and go buy Racing for Dummies, you moron!
38
elf
...
GUNMA AKAGI
Aww, hell! This thing can't turn worth a damn!
Are you serious!?
Are...
33
Th... That tractor wasn't good for turning, neither...

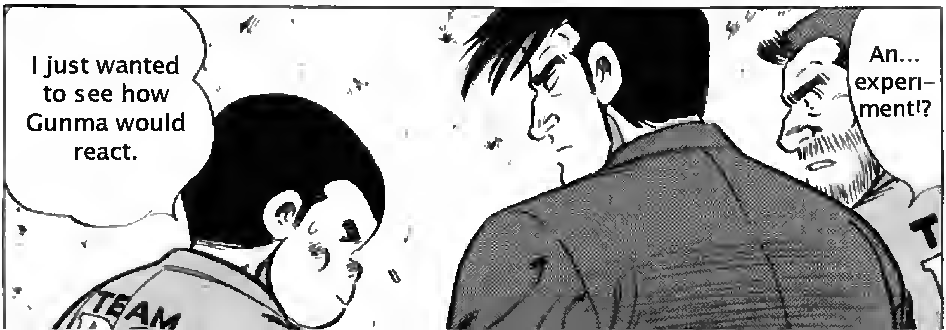
KRRR
Shell
ZOOM
Yeah, just like that tractor!
...but I'm not gettin' any traction!
It feels like I'm drivin' on ice!
You're right, I'm freakin' fast when I drive a straight line...
Whew...
GUNMA

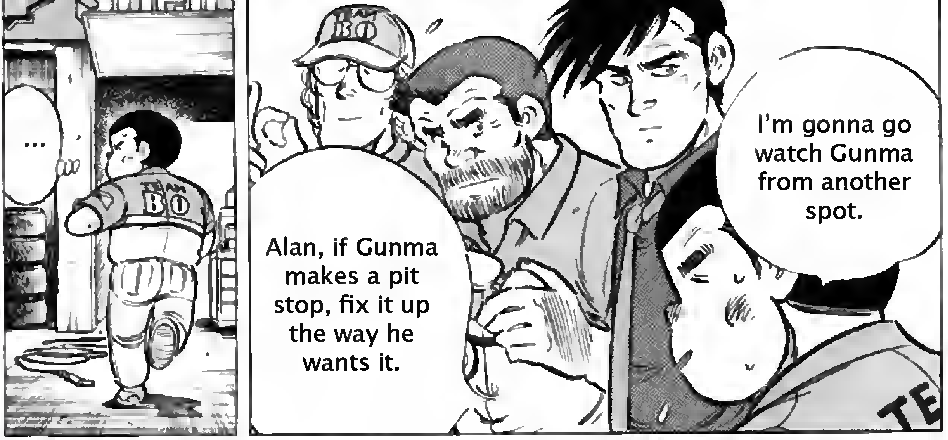

Gunma Akagi is overtaken once again! Something's off about Akagi today!
VRRR
6
SARE
SILK

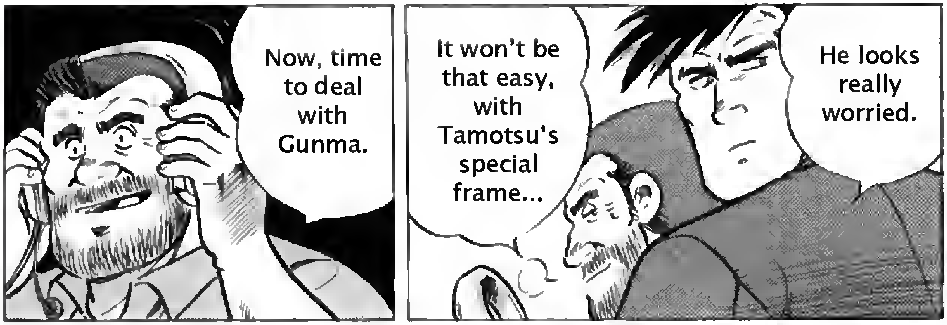

GUNMA
...you skimped on the repairs!?
Tamo-tsu.
Yer tellin' me...

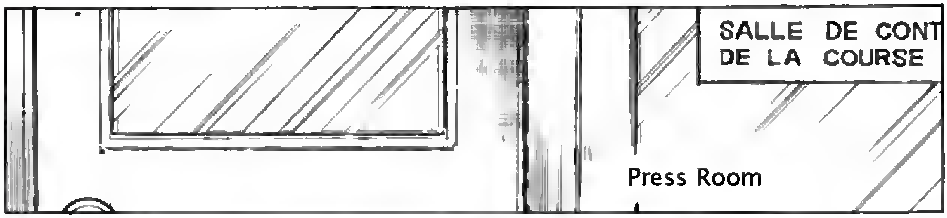

I'm sorry, Mr. Orman. I used a real race for an experiment...

...

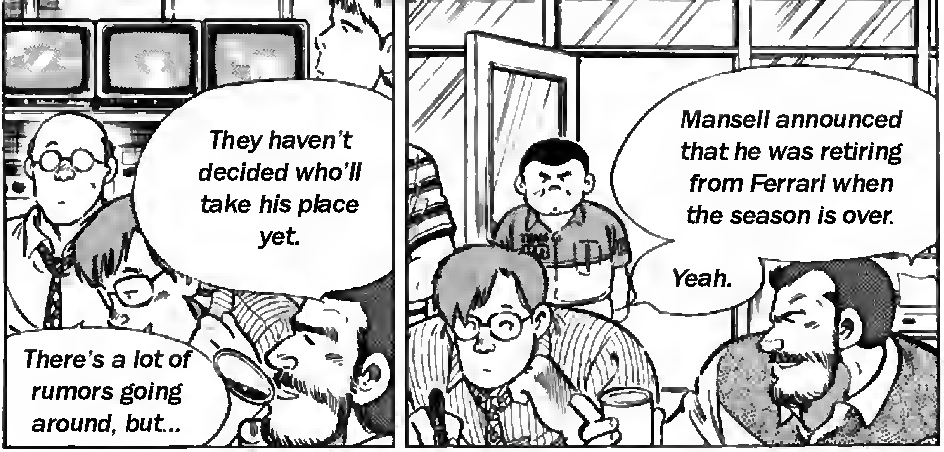

I just wanted to see how Gunma would react.
An... experi-ment!?
TEAM


...
Alan, if Gunma makes a pit stop, fix it up the way he wants it.
I'm gonna go watch Gunma from another spot.

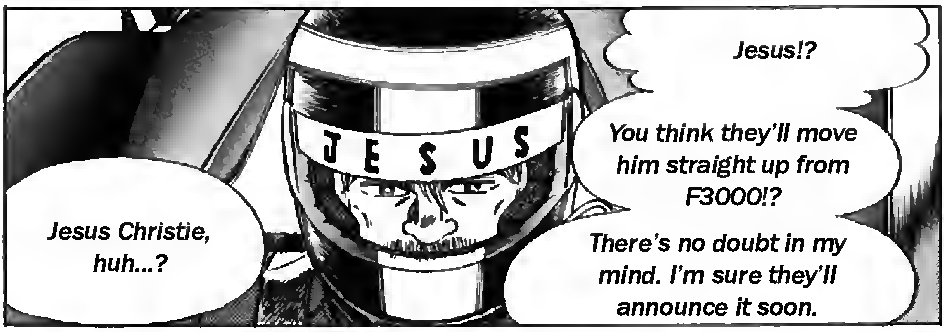

Now, time to deal with Gunma.
It won't be that easy, with Tamotsu's special frame...
He looks really worried.

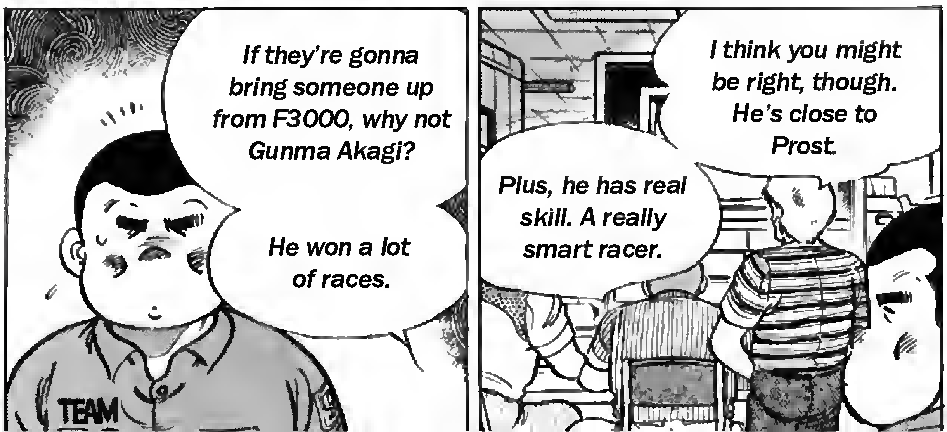

SALLE DE CONT
DE LA COURSE
Press Room

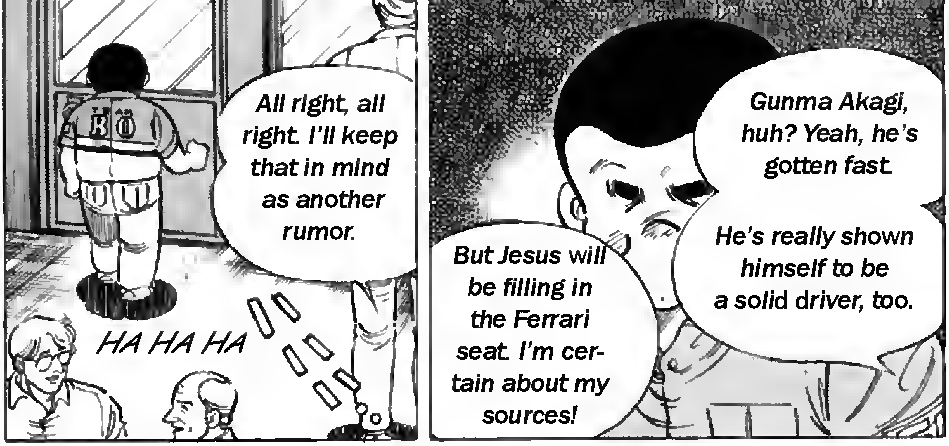
Have you heard?
YAK
YAK
YAK


They haven't decided who'll take his place yet.
There's a lot of rumors going around, but...
Mansell announced that he was retiring from Ferrari when the season is over.
Yeah.

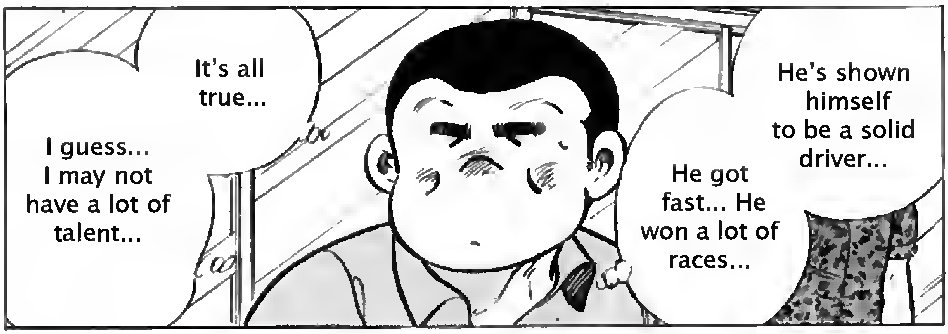
It's this guy!
No kidding!
I know who it's gonna be!

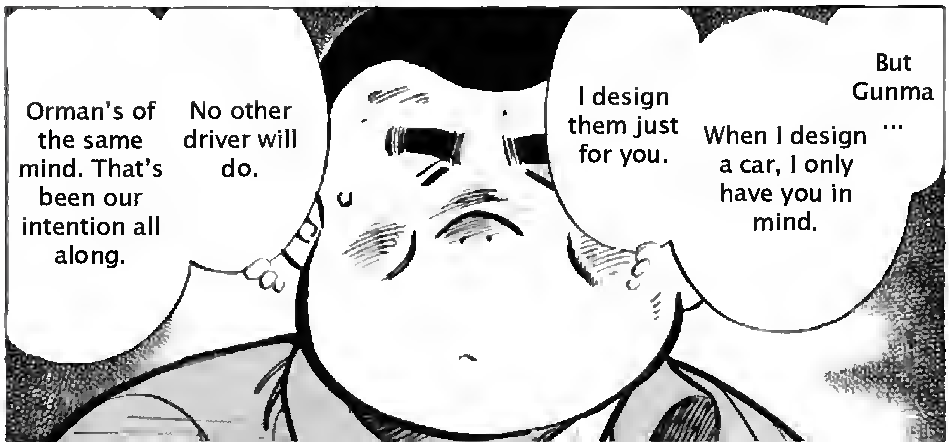

JESUS
Jesus Christie, huh...?
Jesus!?
You think they'll move him straight up from F3000!?
There's no doubt in my mind. I'm sure they'll announce it soon.


If they're gonna bring someone up from F3000, why not Gunma Akagi?
He won a lot of races.
TEAM
I think you might be right, though. He's close to Prost.
Plus, he has real skill. A really smart racer.


All right, all right. I'll keep that in mind as another rumor.
HA HA HA
Gunma Akagi, huh? Yeah, he's gotten fast.
He's really shown himself to be a solid driver, too.
But Jesus will be filling in the Ferrari seat. I'm certain about my sources!

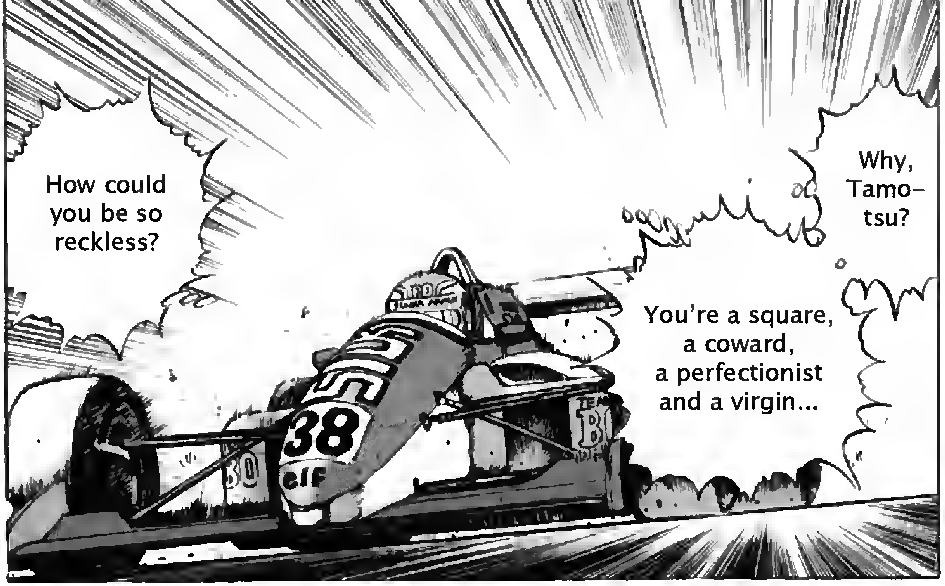
ZOOOOM
...
KACHIK

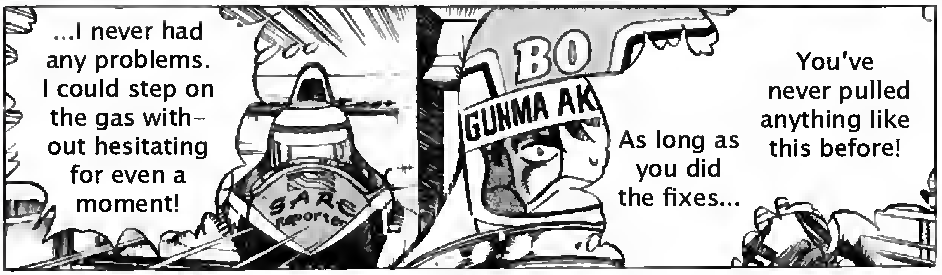

It's all true...
I guess... I may not have a lot of talent...
He got fast... He won a lot of races...
He's shown himself to be a solid driver...


Orman's of the same mind. That's been our intention all along.
No other driver will do.
I design them just for you.
When I design a car, I only have you in mind.
But Gunma ...

VROOOOOOOH
But...
The way you are now, I can't come up with anything!

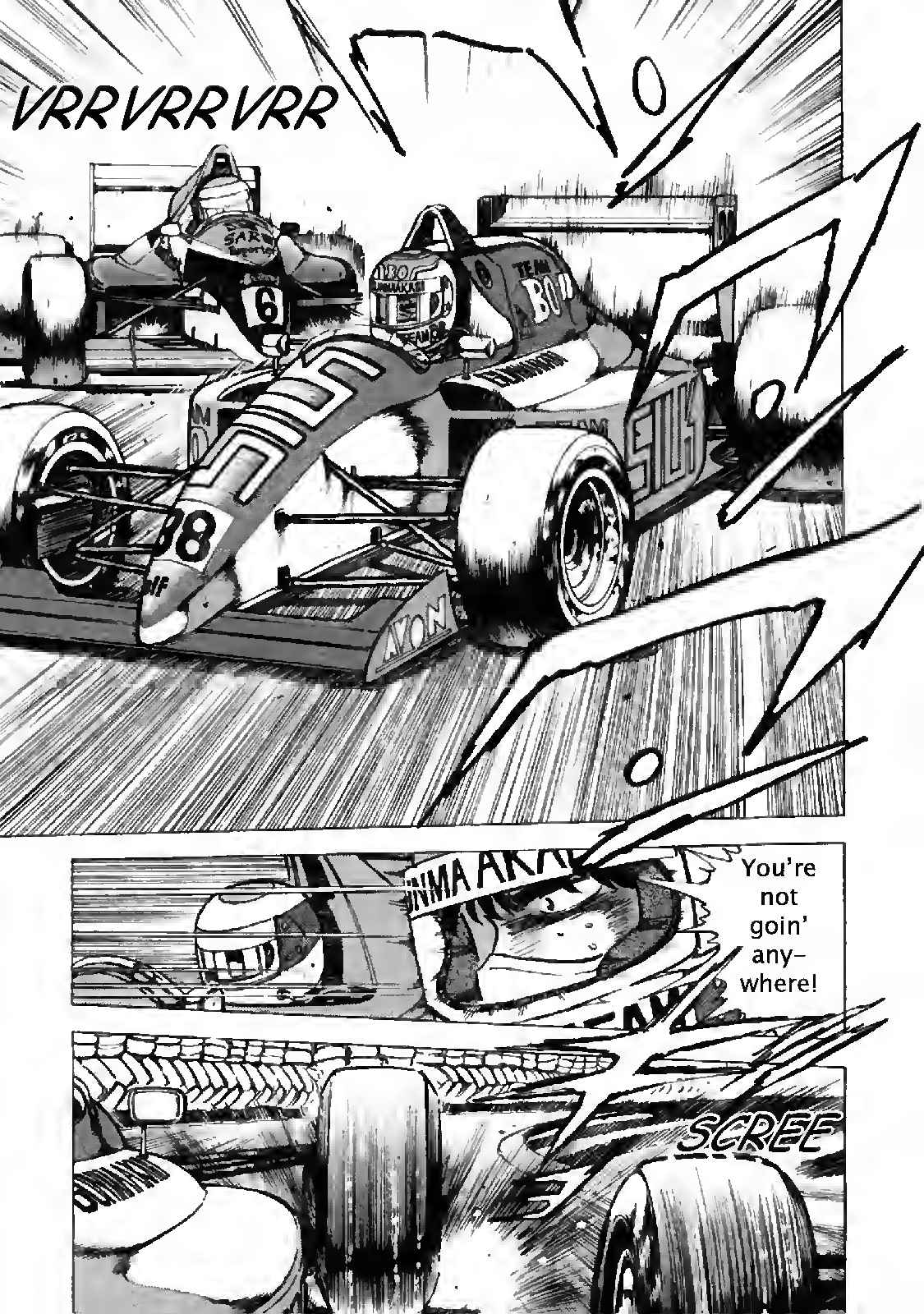
Shut up!
You going back to the pit, Gunma!?
You skimping bastaaard!
You skimping bastard!
You skimping bastard!

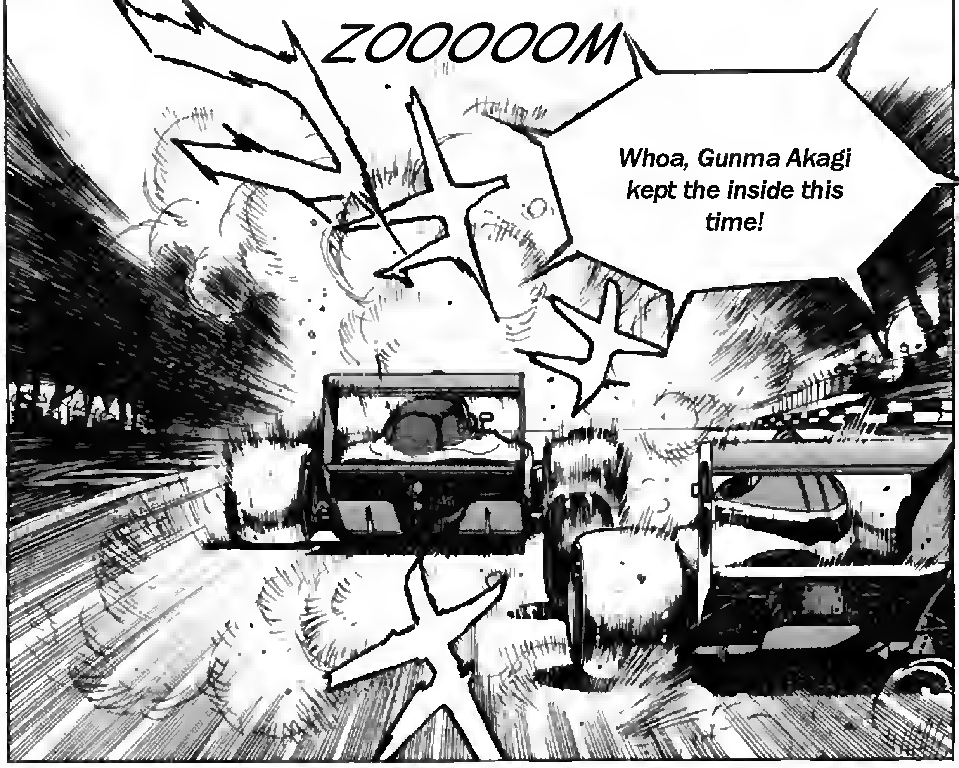

How could you be so reckless?
Why, Tamo-tsu?
You're a square, a coward, a perfectionist and a virgin...
38
elf

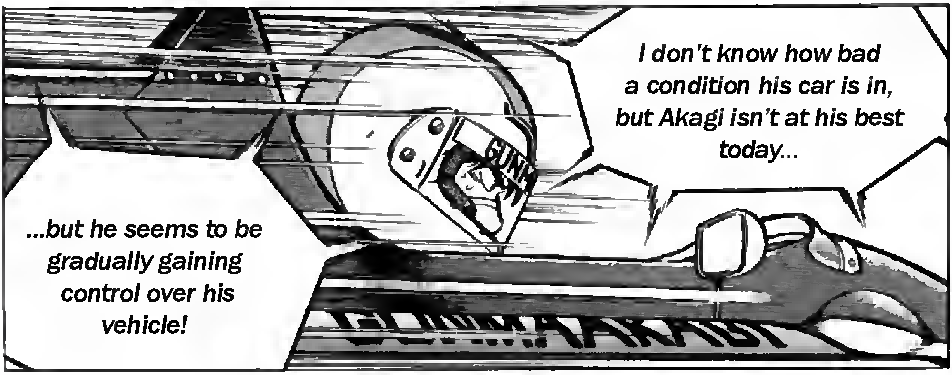

...I never had any problems. I could step on the gas without hesitating for even a moment!
As long as you did the fixes...
You've never pulled anything like this before!
GUNMA AK

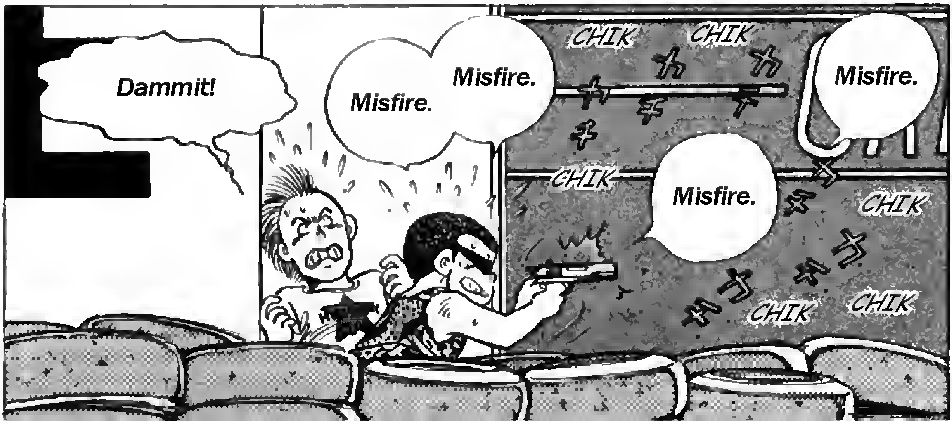
They were so perfect, I would find myself almost yawning out of boredom.
Too perfect.
Your cars are perfect.

Hey, you piece of junk!
FWOOSH
DAILY

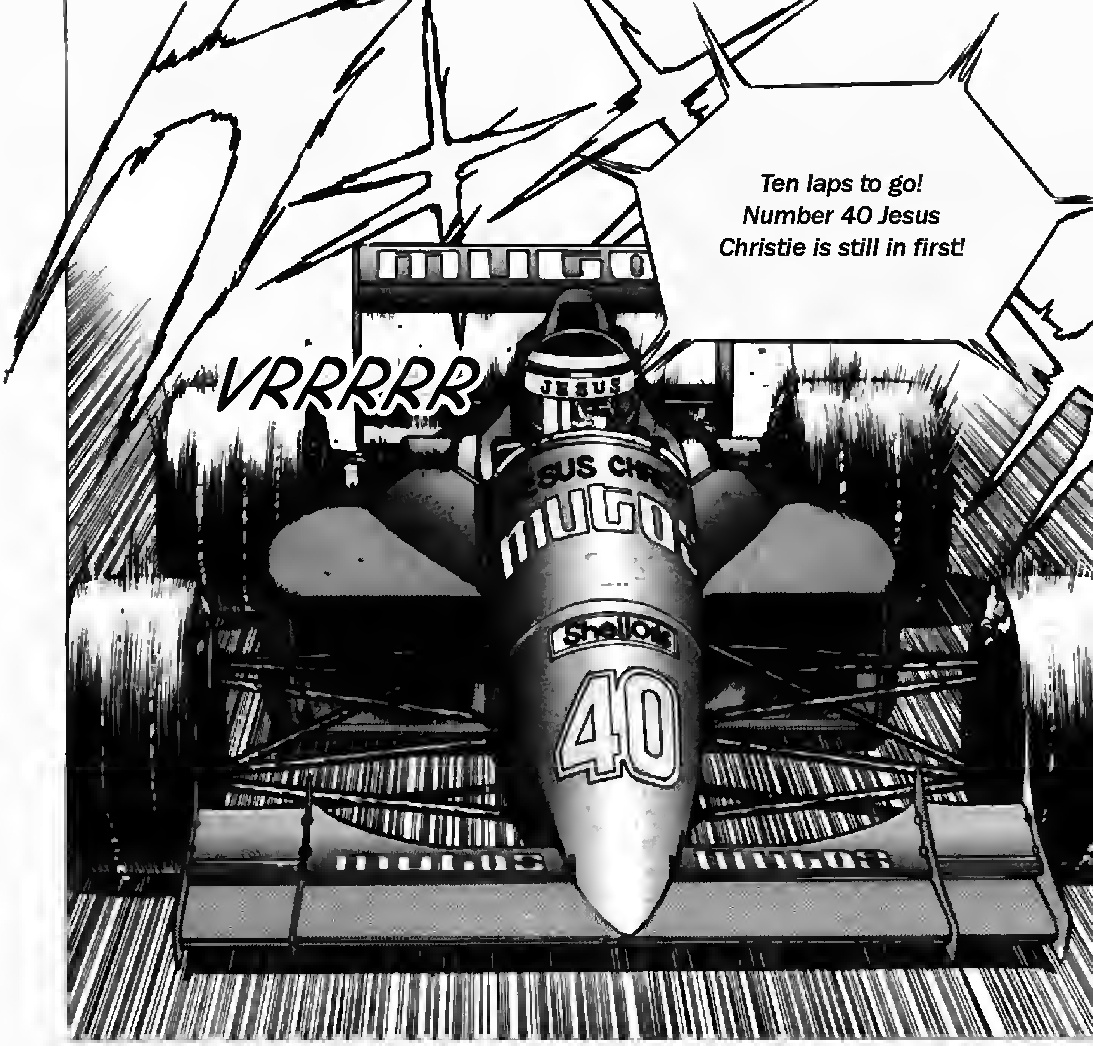

VRRVRRVRR
You're not goin' any-where!
SCREE

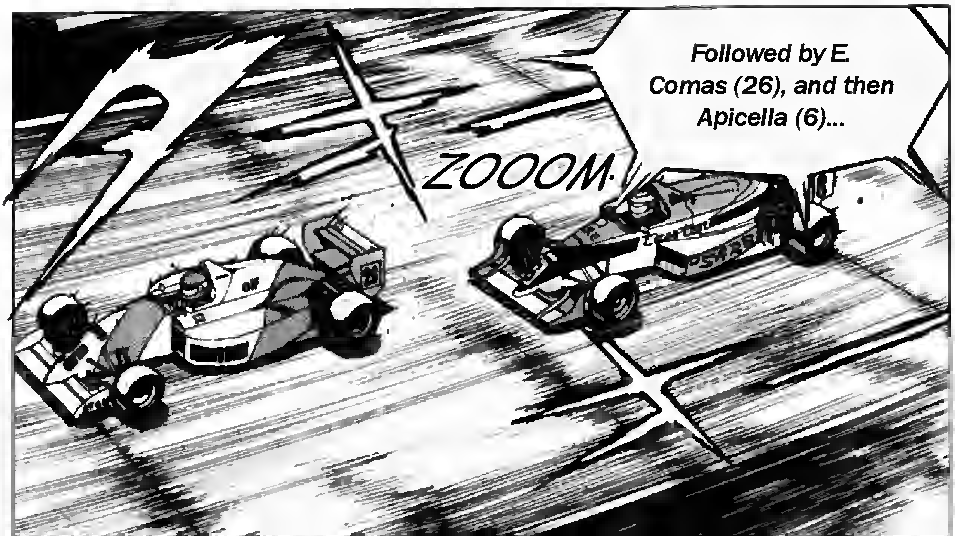

ZOOOOOM
Whoa, Gunma Akagi kept the inside this time!

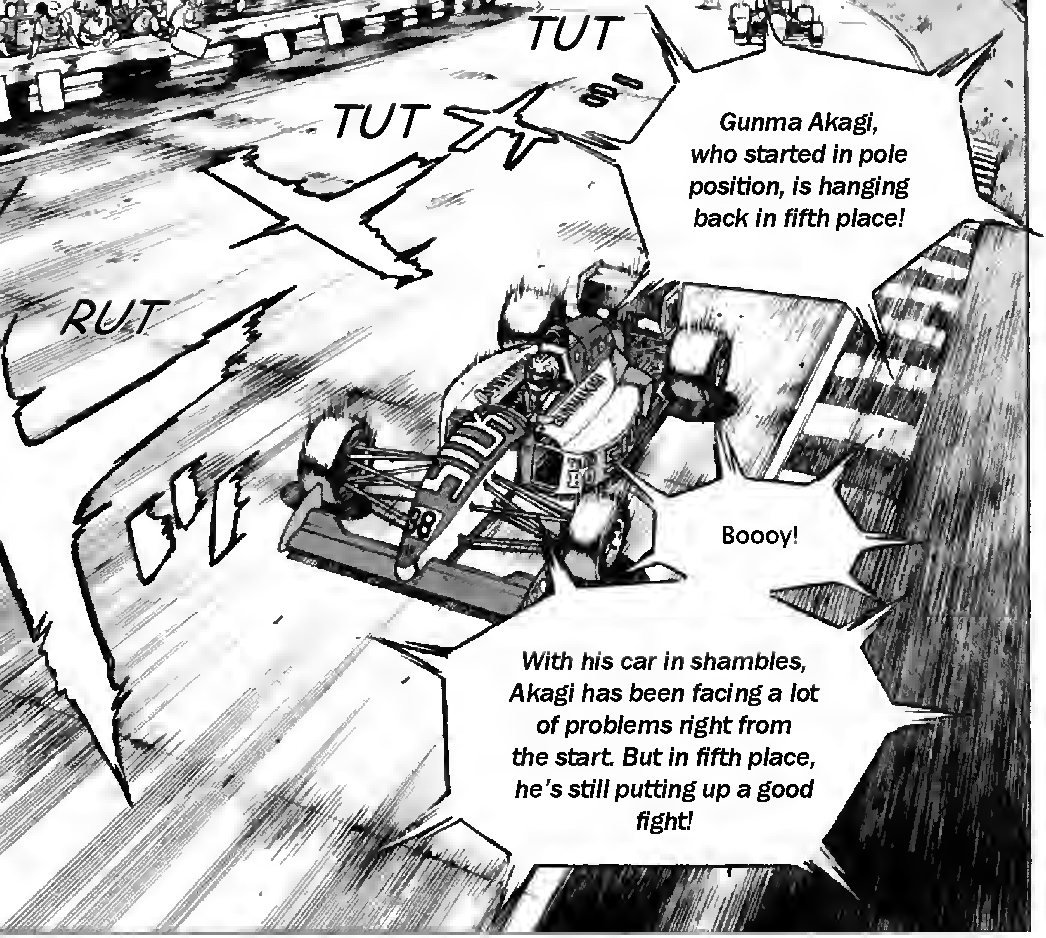

I don't know how bad a condition his car is in, but Akagi isn't at his best today...
...but he seems to be gradually gaining control over his vehicle!

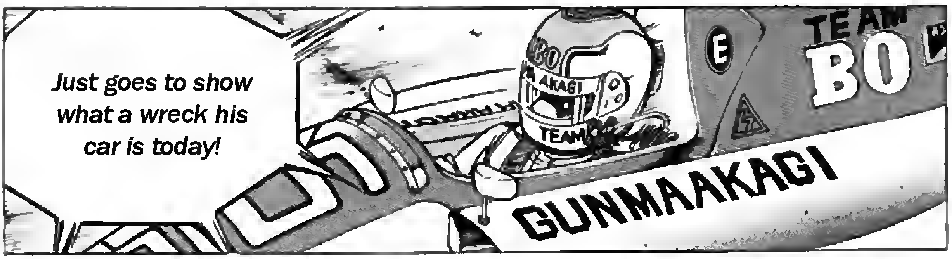

Dammit!
Misfire.
Misfire.
CHIK
CHIK
Misfire.
CHIK
Misfire.
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK

Chapter 8:
Bite the Bullet


Ten laps to go!
Number 40 Jesus
Christie is still in first!
VRRRRR
JESUS
MUGO
Shell
40


Followed by E.
Comas (26), and then
Apicella (6)...
ZOOOM


TUT
TUT
RUT
Gunma Akagi, who started in pole position, is hanging back in fifth place!
Boooy!
With his car in shambles, Akagi has been facing a lot of problems right from the start. But in fifth place, he's still putting up a good fight!


Just goes to show what a wreck his car is today!
TEAM BO
GUNMAAKAGI

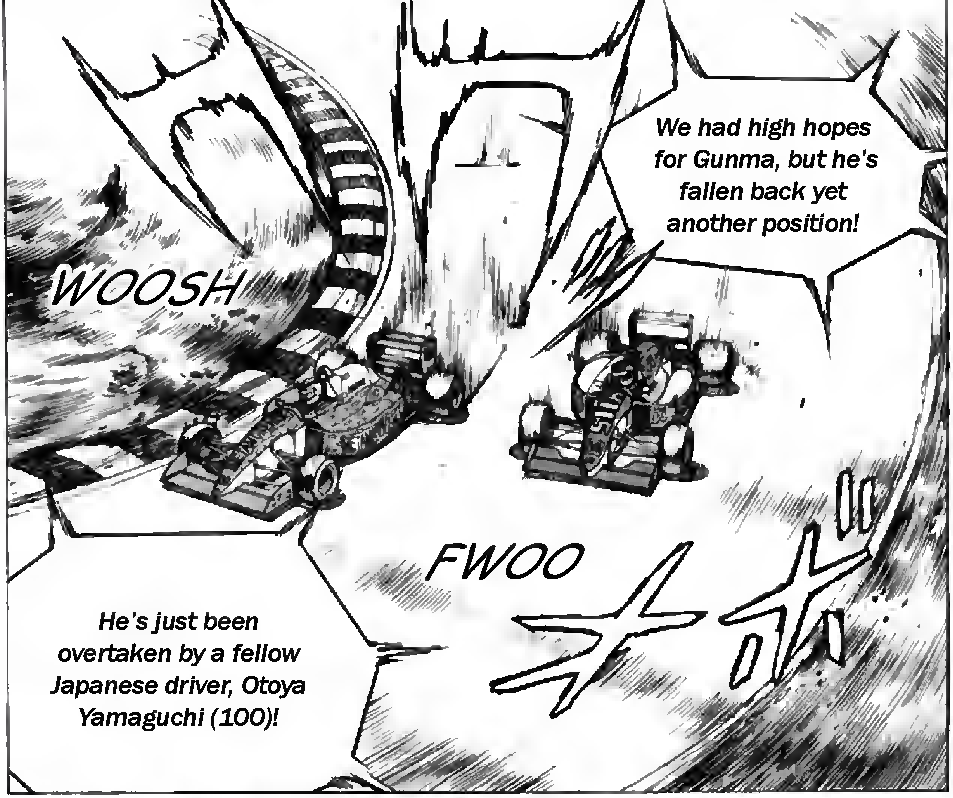
AKAGI
TEAM BO

Shut up! I won't let NOBODY get in front of me!
Gunma, stop! Gunmaaa!
Tamotsu, I'm gonna race! Come with me!
...
Your money is right here!
Tamotsu, I AM your freakin' money!

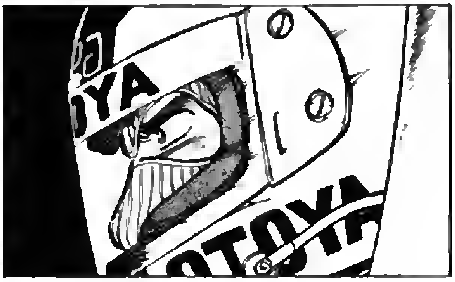
Seven laps to go! Jesus finally has a big lead over the rest!
VRRR
But the race still goes on, folks! We can't say for sure what might happen!

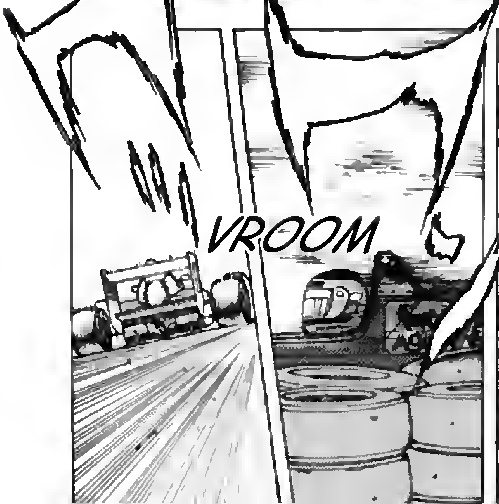
The only ones who don't know are these leeches that enjoy sucking every last drop of blood out of this race. They just don't wanna know.
I know for sure what'll happen.

J E S
But it's already clear how this is gonna end!


WOOSH
We had high hopes for Gunma, but he's fallen back yet another position!
FWOO
He's just been overtaken by a fellow Japanese driver, Otoya Yamaguchi (100)!

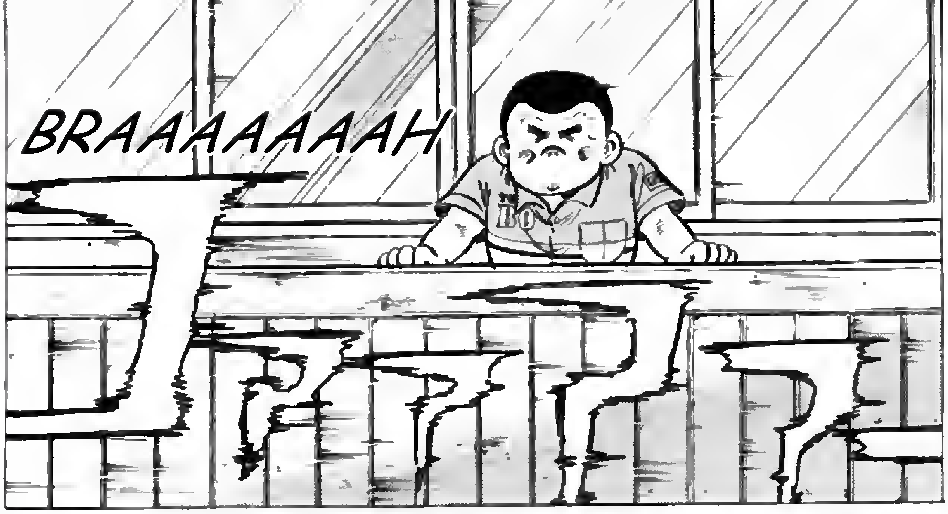
GUNMA AKAGI


OTOYA

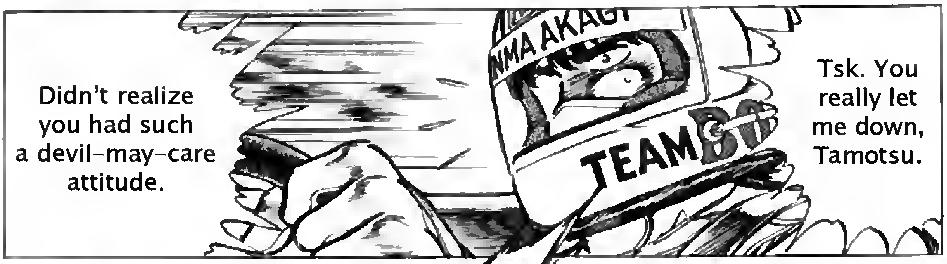

VROOM

It's just getting warmer and warmer, like a baby's diaper...
Let's just give it up, Don! It's no use... The gun won't fire.
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP

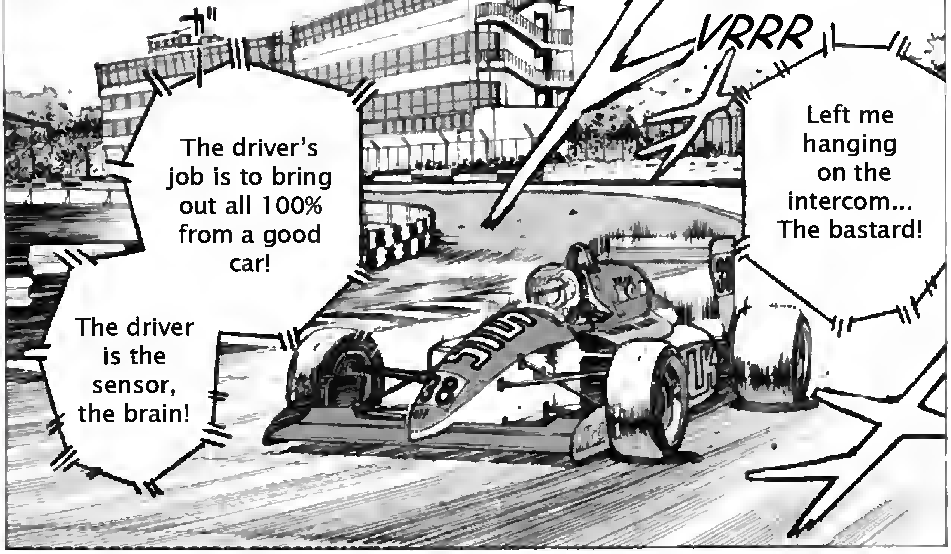
It's fine. Let's just give it up.
Forget about this race. We'll focus on a bigger victory.
A bigger victory...?
I mean, for us...
...all we can do is place our faith...
...in Tamotsu and Gunma.
Three laps to go! Jesus is just breezing through this, folks!
ZOOOOOOMS
40
mutos


BRAAAAAAAH

POP
POP
POP
Shell Oils
Shell United

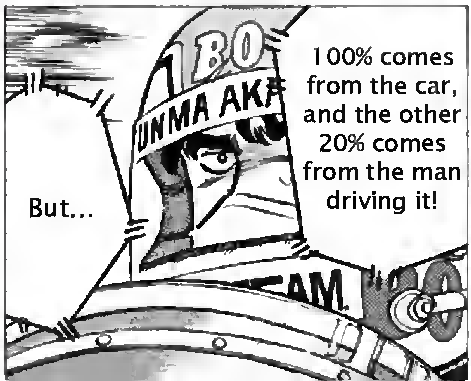

Didn't realize you had such a devil-may-care attitude.
TEAM
Tsk. You really let me down, Tamotsu.

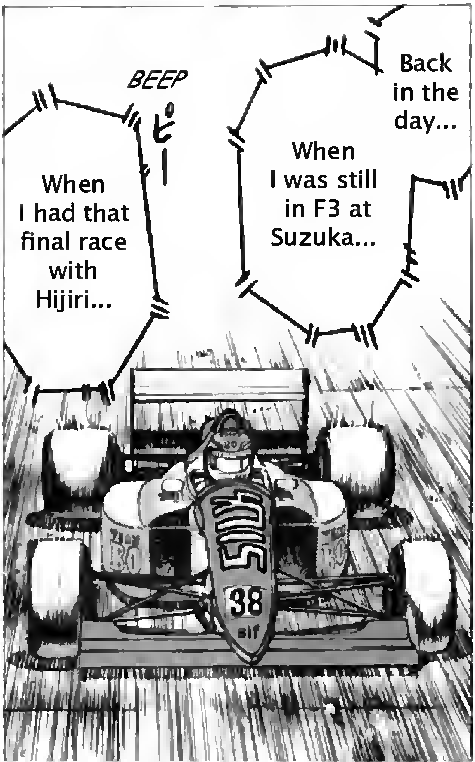
...I've learned that I have to become a part of the car itself!
After all these races...
KRR
AKAGI
TEAM
A race car should be built to run at 100%!

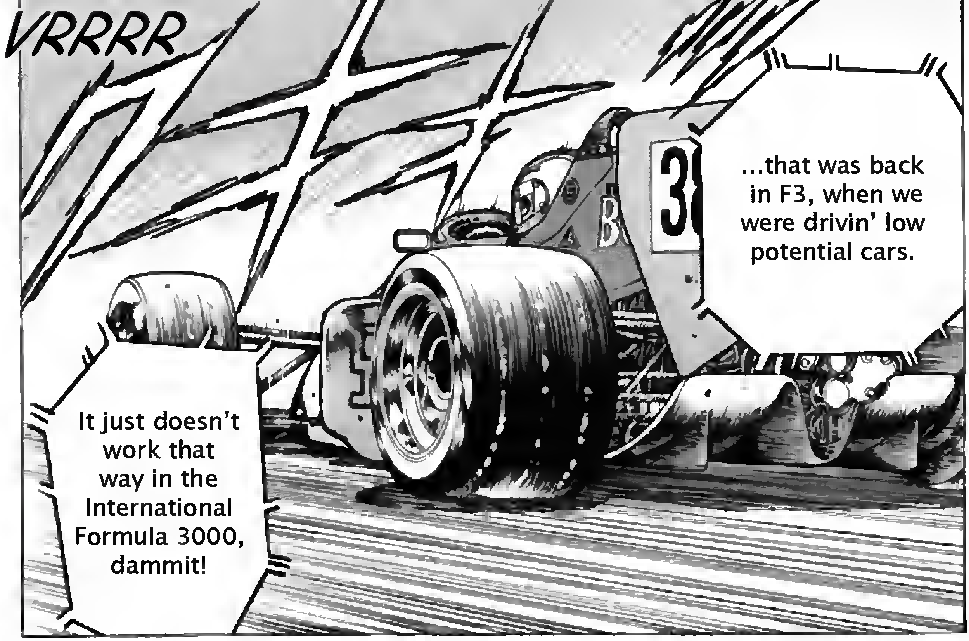

VRRR
The driver's job is to bring out all 100% from a good car!
The driver is the sensor, the brain!
Left me hanging on the intercom... The bastard!

I can't do anything with my car in shambles!
You understand, Tamotsu!?

He told me I need to put out 120% in order to win a race!
Kuroi told me something!

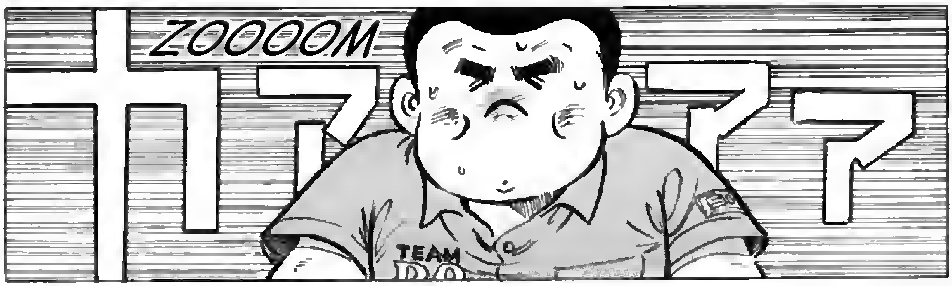

But...
100% comes from the car, and the other 20% comes from the man driving it!


BEEP
ピー
When I had that final race with Hijiri...
When I was still in F3 at Suzuka...
Back in the day...
38

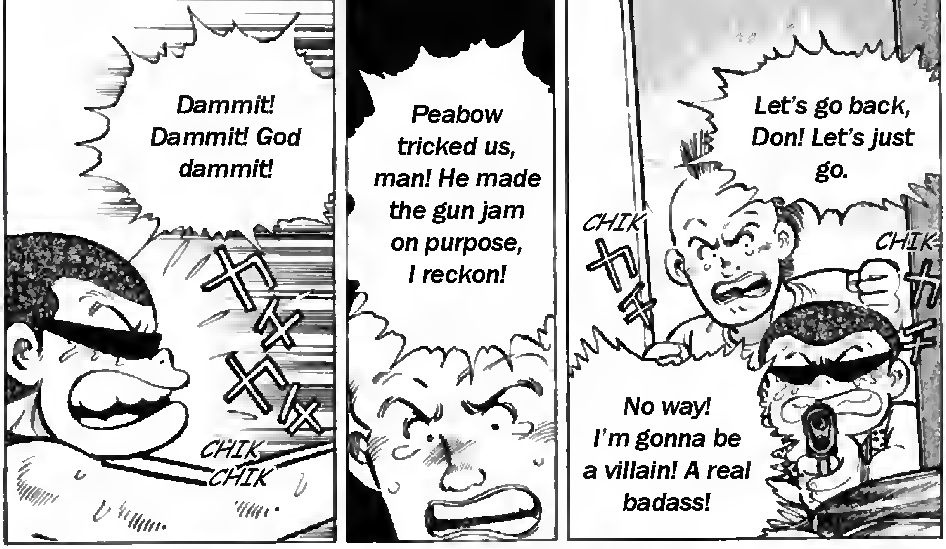

VRRRR
...that was back in F3, when we were drivin' low potential cars.
It just doesn't work that way in the International Formula 3000, dammit!

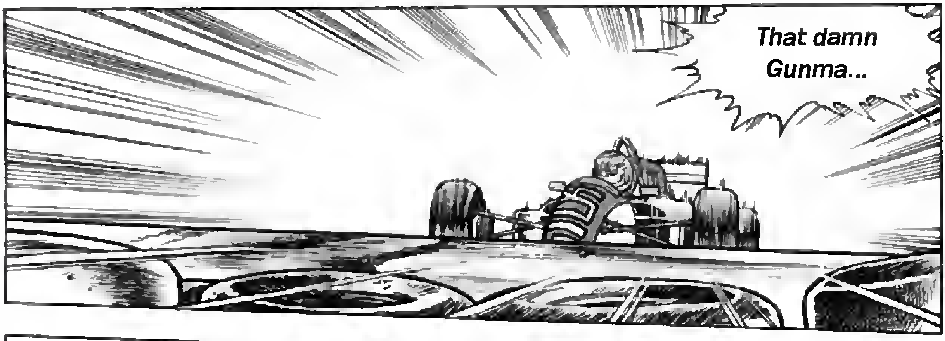
...the smaller he tries to get.
Themore hard-ships a man goes through ...

...he says.

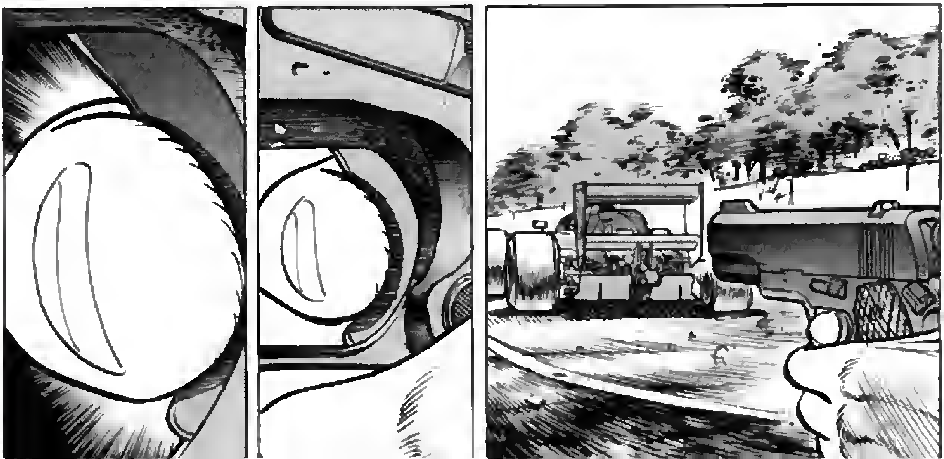

ZOOOOM
TEAM

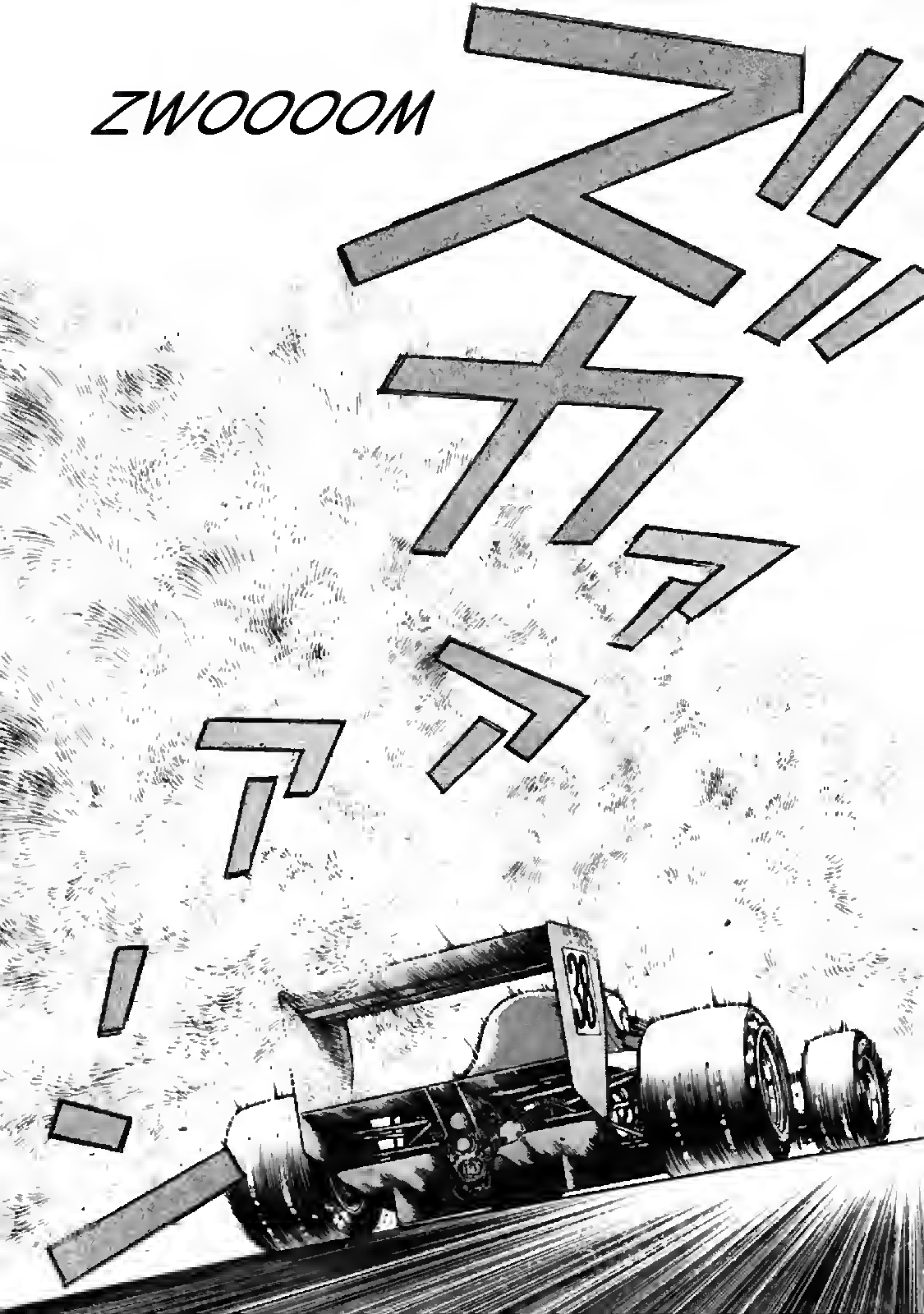
WOOO
And now we enter the final lap!

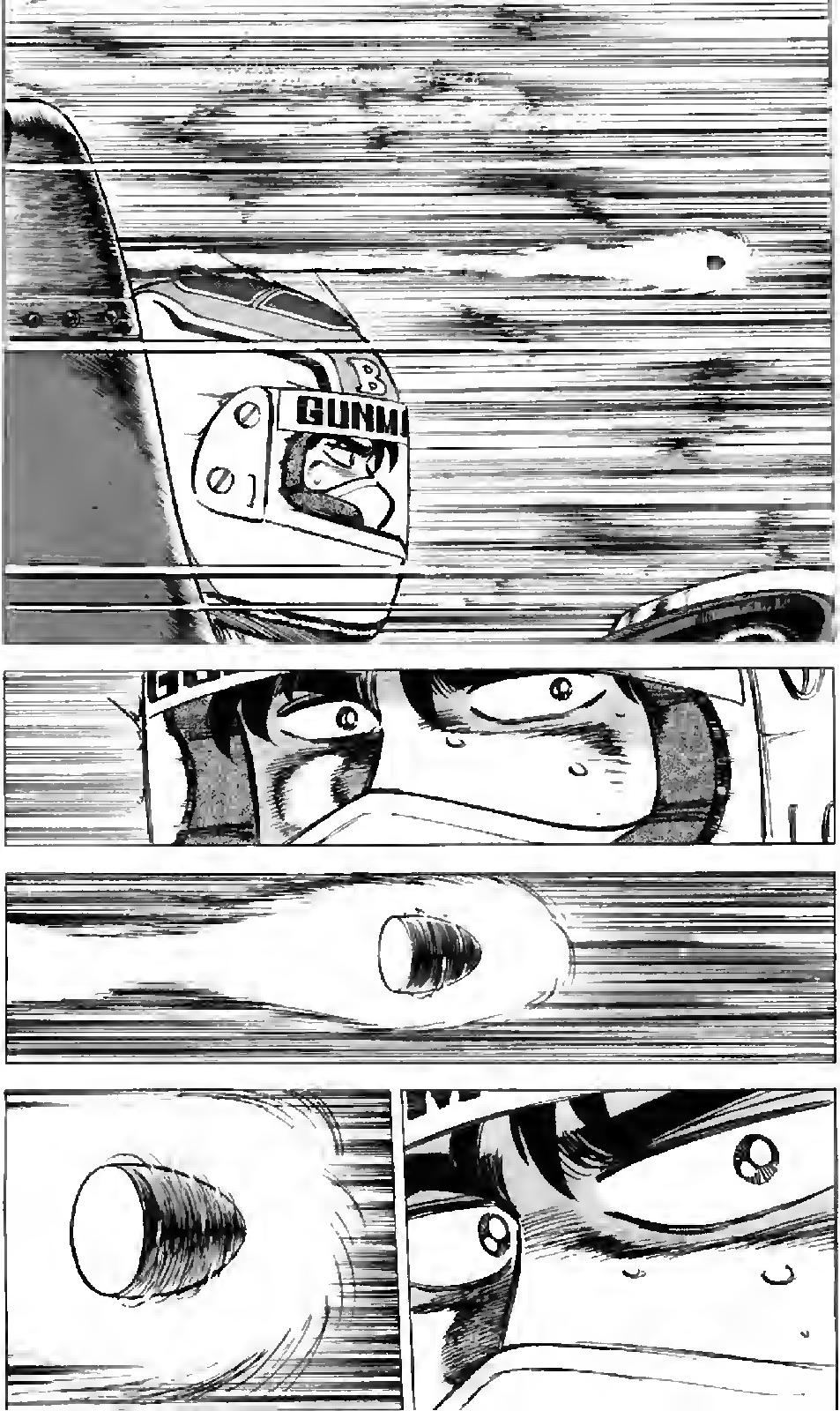

Dammit! Dammit! God dammit!
CHIK CHIK
Peabow tricked us, man! He made the gun jam on purpose, I reckon!
Let's go back, Don! Let's just go.
CHIK
CHIK
No way! I'm gonna be a villain! A real badass!


That damn Gunma...

Dammit!
He's comin' by for the last lap...
CHIK CHIK

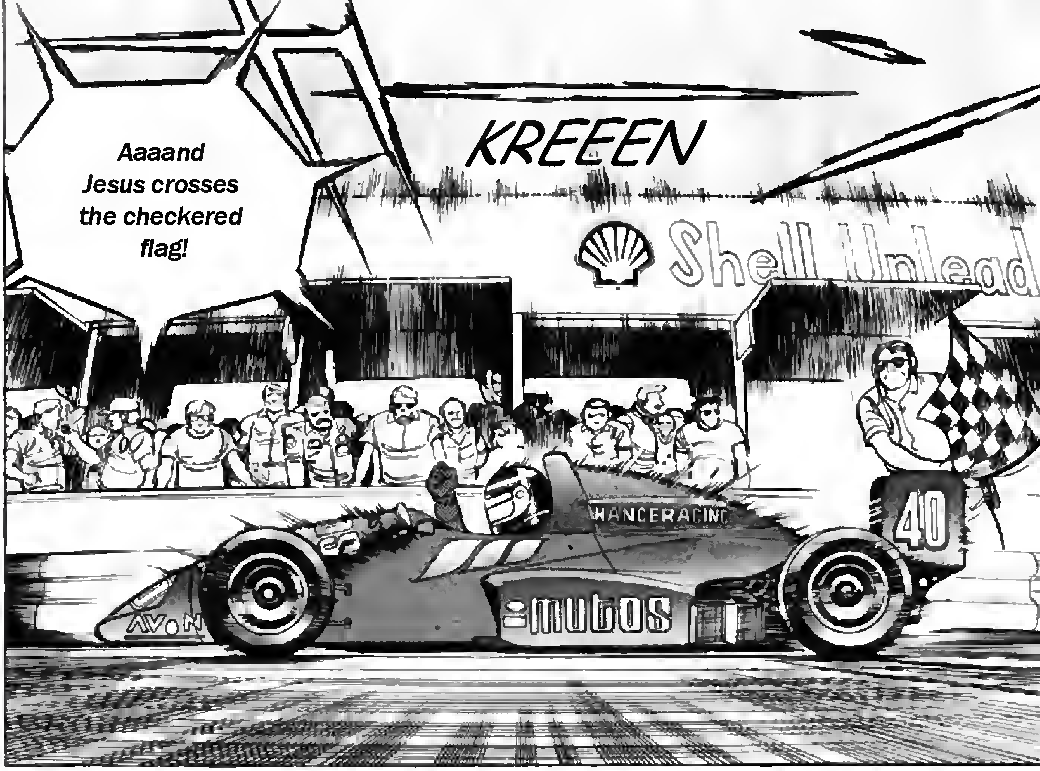


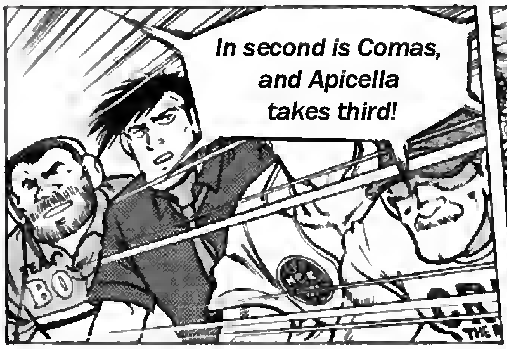

ZWOOOOM
ズオォォ
ォォ
ォ
ォ

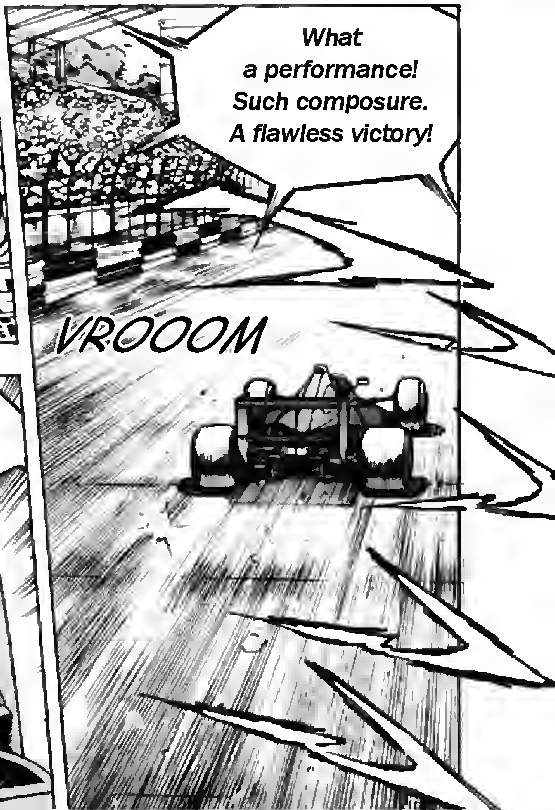

GUNMA

GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM
AKAGI
TEAM BO
AKAG

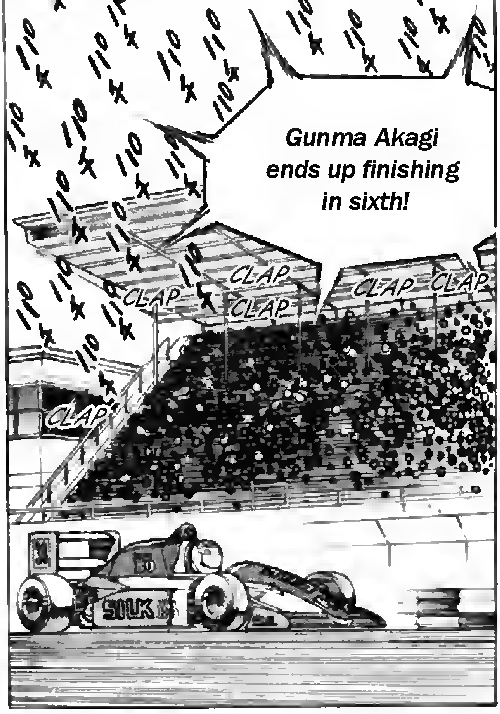
GRASP
VRRRR
VROOOM


Aaaand Jesus crosses the checkered flag!
KREEEN
Shell Unlead
HANCERACING
40
AVON
mubos


In second is Comas, and Apicella takes third!

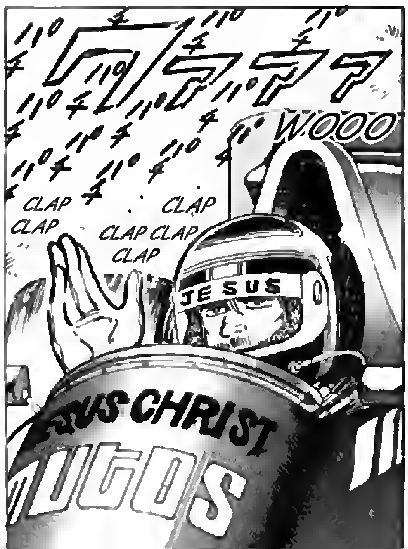

What a performance! Such composure. A flawless victory!
VROOOM

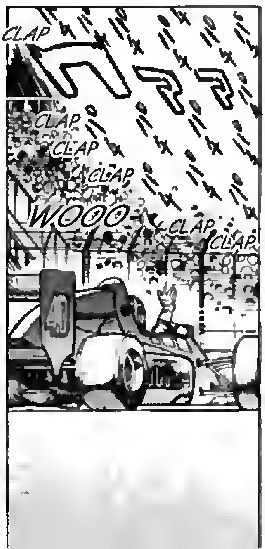
And finishing fourth is...
Otoya Yamaguchi!
TAMORPHOSE
OTOYA

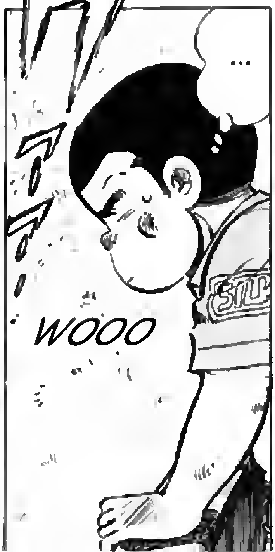

Gunma Akagi ends up finishing in sixth!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
SUK

...
...

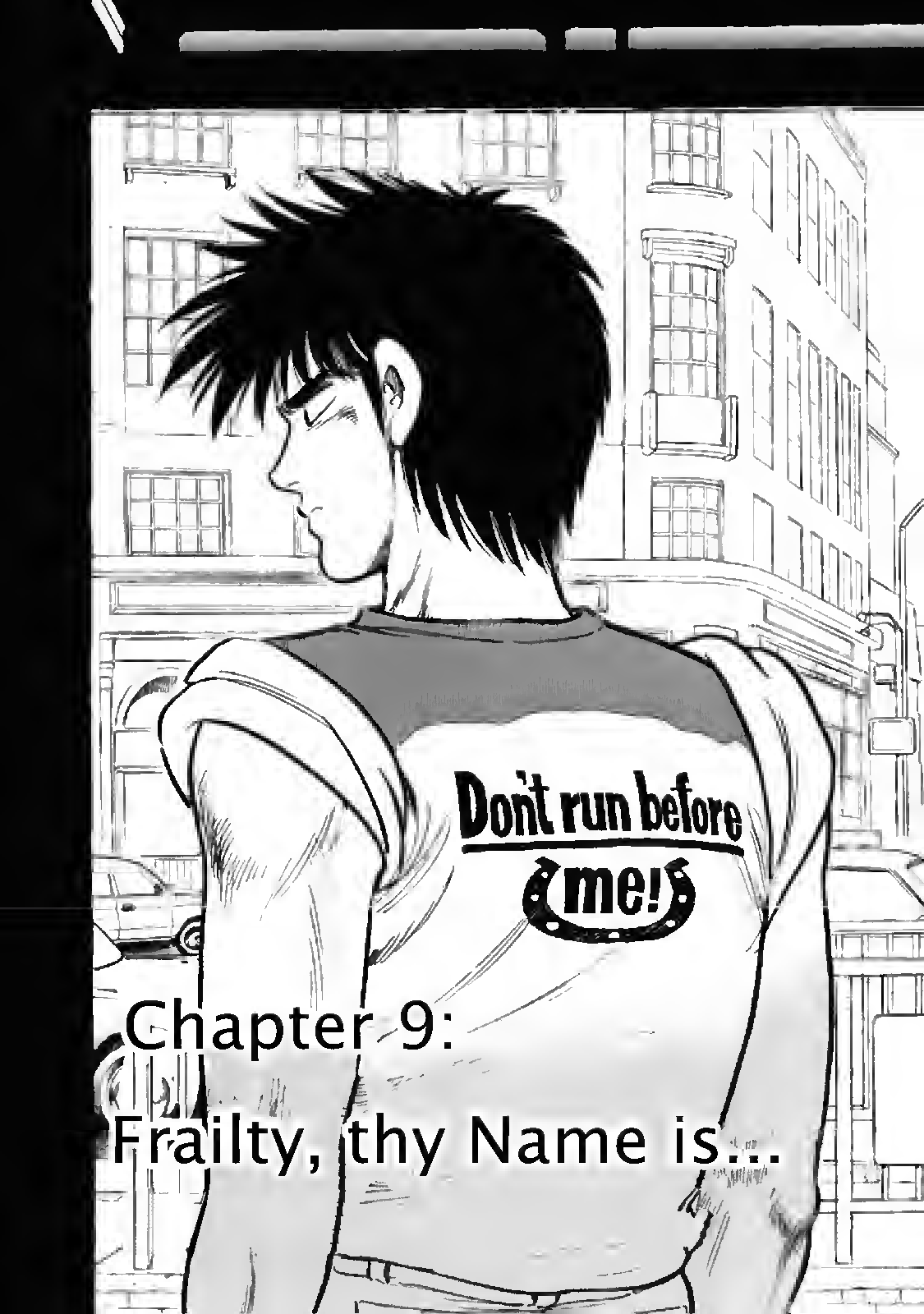
R... Run!


WOOO
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
JESUS
JESUS CHRIST

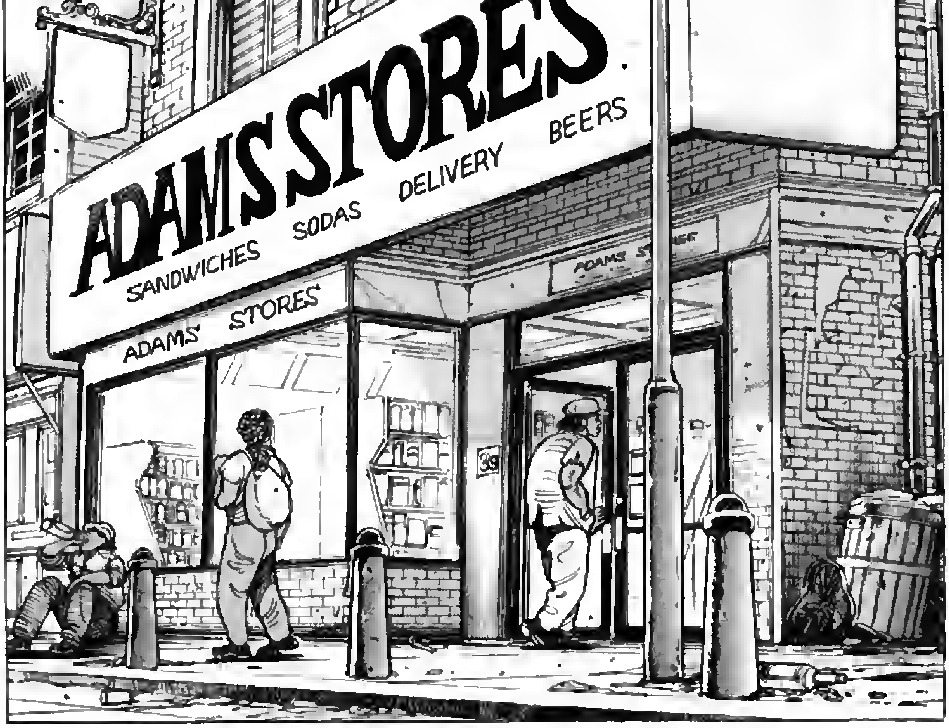

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WOOO
CLAP
CLAP

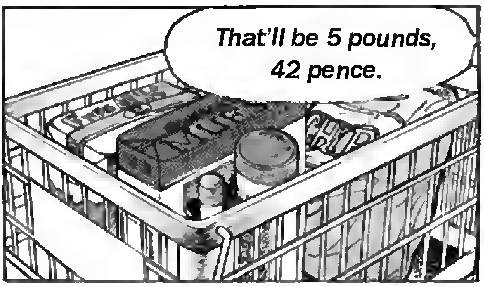

...
WOOO

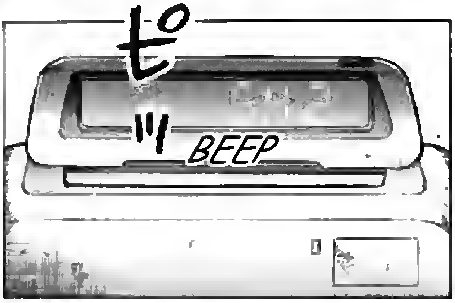
ブズ
ブズ
SSS
SSS
with
ure
AKABI
GUNMAAK
I... I...
I was wrong ...!?
38



Chapter 9:
Frailty, thy Name is...


ADAMS STORES
SANDWICHES SODAS DELIVERY BEERS
ADAMS STORES

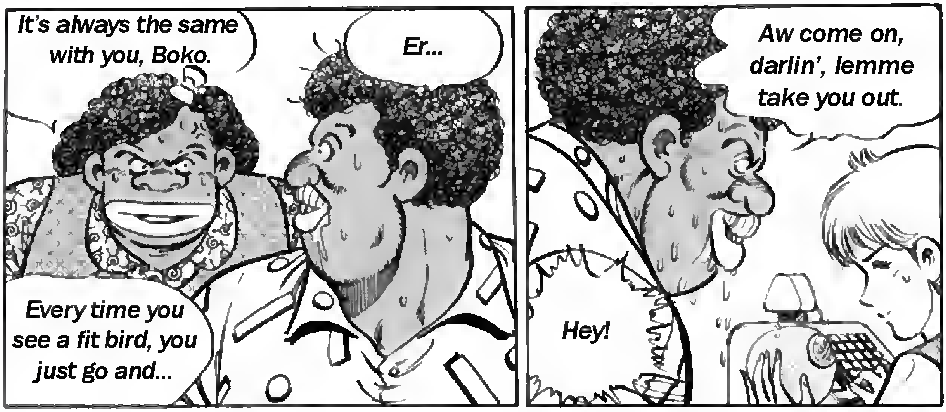

That'll be 5 pounds, 42 pence.

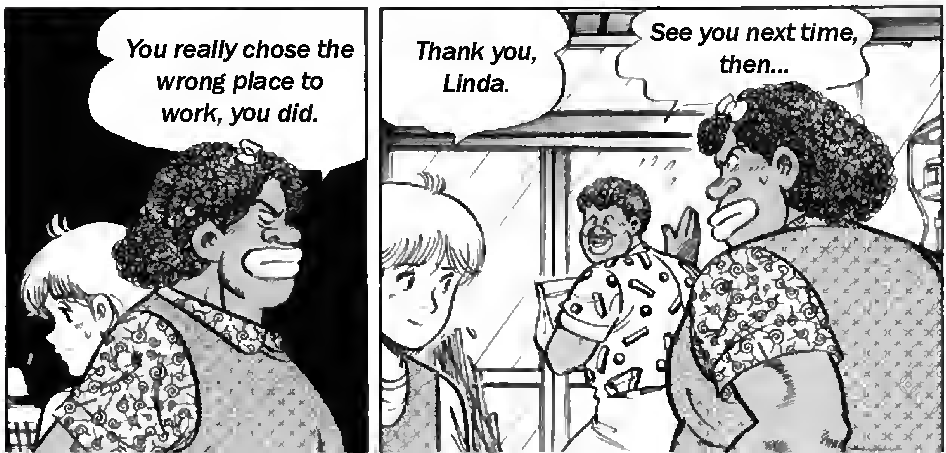

BEEP

Hey baby, you fancy some fish n' chips? Lemme take you out tonight.

Thank you.

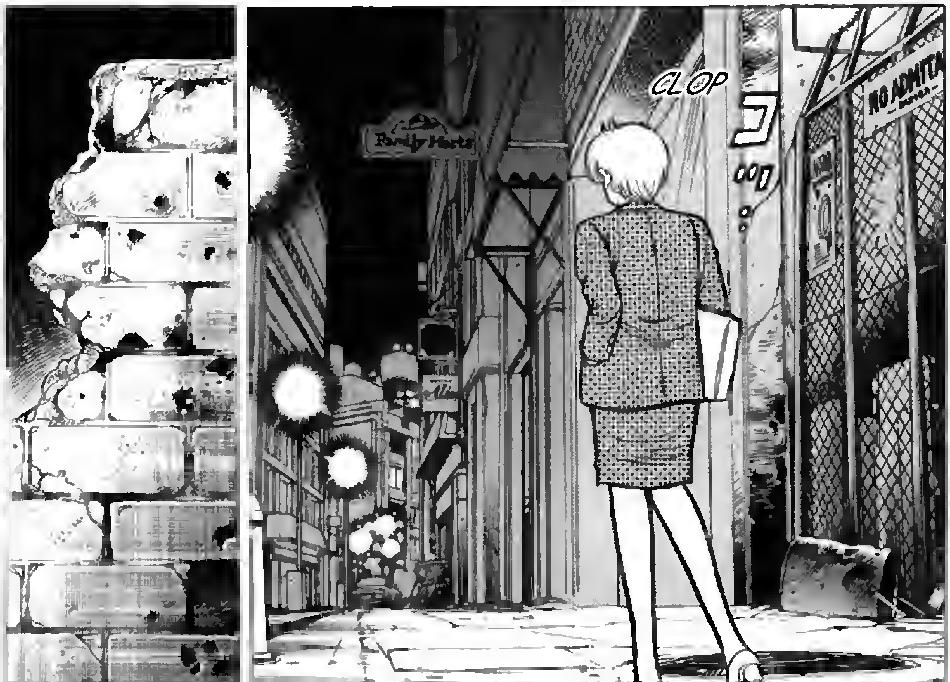
Greh heh heh!
Come on, darlin', I fink you're real fit.
You're real sweet, like honey, darlin'.
Next, please.
YAK
YAK
Thanks for the offer, but I'm not a fan of fish and chips.
All right, how about some Indian, then? Or we could go to Chinatown and grab something nice and spicy.


It's always the same with you, Boko.
Er...
Every time you see a fit bird, you just go and...
Aw come on, darlin', lemme take you out.
Hey!


You really chose the wrong place to work, you did.
Thank you, Linda.
See you next time, then...

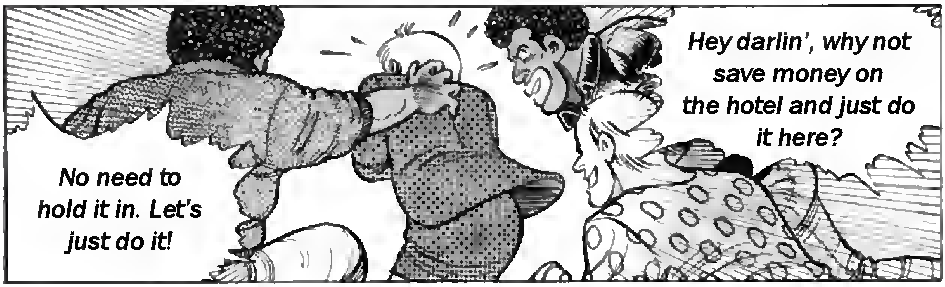
ADAMS STORES
Can I walk you home, Junko?
Don't worry about it, Linda.
What a day.
See you tomorrow.

Thank you, Linda. Good night.
You chose the wrong times to work, too. You should talk to Adams about your shift tomorrow.

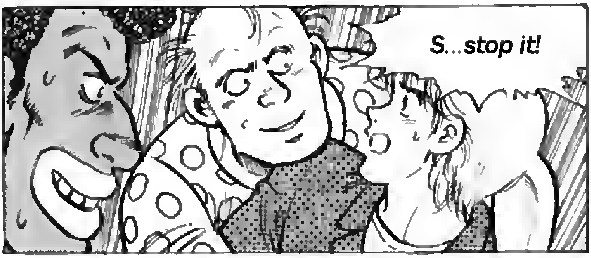

CLOP
CLOP
Family Hosts

...
She stepped on my head! I'll take that as an invitation.
Hey, you see that? This chick just walked over my shadow.
DASH

Well, I wouldn't be a man if I turned down that invitation.
Look, she's takin' us straight to a hotel. What a sweetheart!


Hey darlin', why not save money on the hotel and just do it here?
No need to hold it in. Let's just do it!

Heh heh heh!


S...stop it!

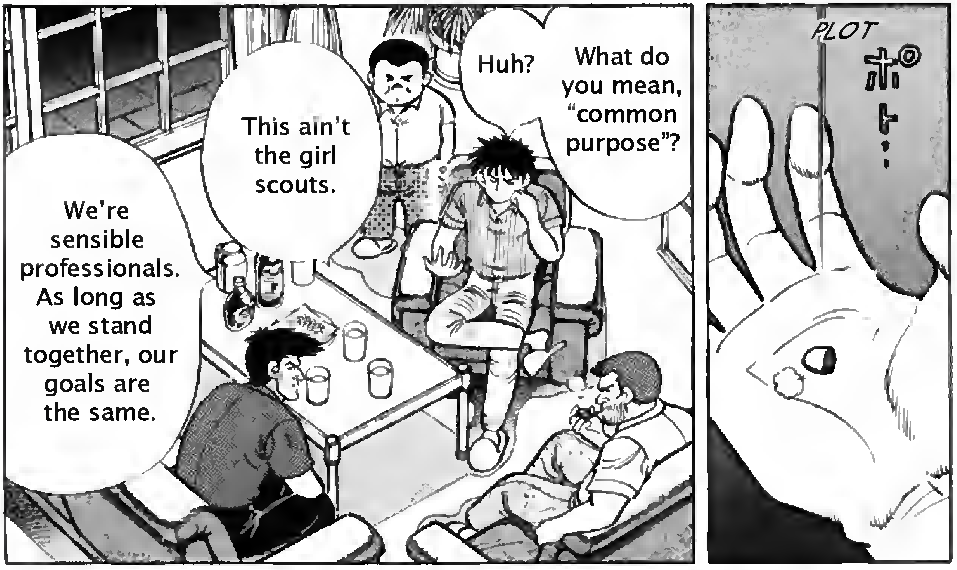
P... Pea-bow!?
SLAP

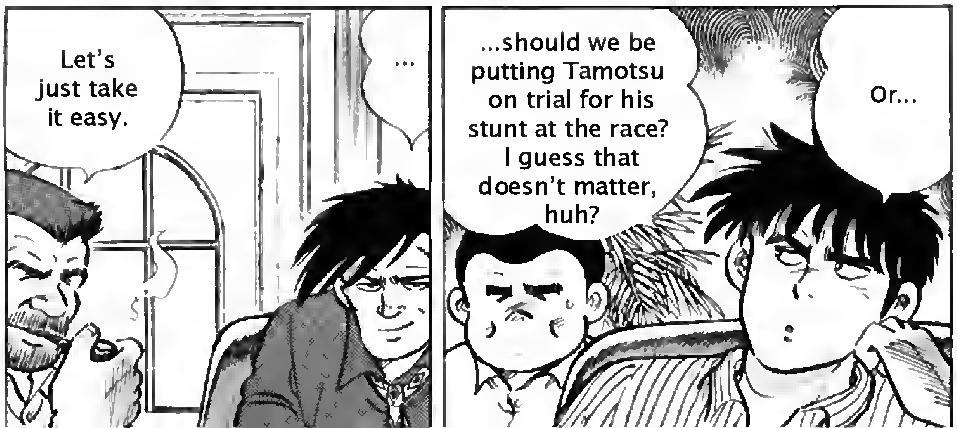
Huh...?

SLICE
What'd you say!?
Go have a nice wank on your hospital bed.
WHISH
If you're lucky, that is...
S... Stop it, Peabow!
Right after you put your "thing" away!
Hey, man, we we're just messin' around. Put that thing away!
Grahhh!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
Rahhh!

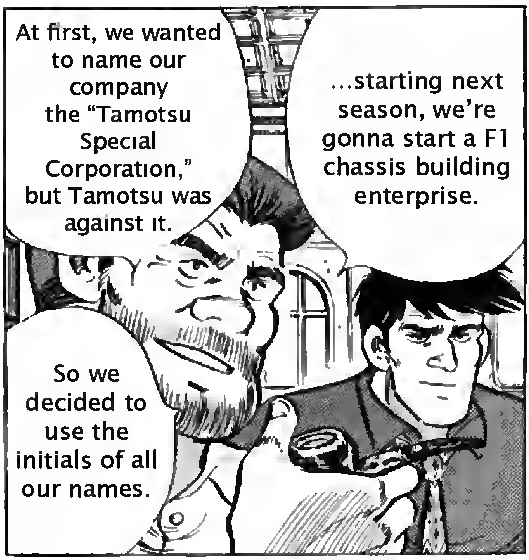
CHIK
P... Peabow.
HUFF
HUFF
I wasn't trying to save you.
It doesn't matter. I'm happy you came...
I just happened to be in the right place.
Thank you, Peabow. You were waiting for me?
...
...part of my training!
That was...
FWING

I think it's time we find a common purpose.
There are four races left to go this season.


We're sensible professionals. As long as we stand together, our goals are the same.
This ain't the girl scouts.
Huh?
What do you mean, "common purpose"?
PLOT


Let's just take it easy.
...
...should we be putting Tamotsu on trial for his stunt at the race? I guess that doesn't matter, huh?
Or...

TWITCH
According to my sources, Jesus is confirmed to move up to F1 next season.


At first, we wanted to name our company the "Tamotsu Special Corporation," but Tamotsu was against it.
...starting next season, we're gonna start a F1 chassis building enterprise.
So we decided to use the initials of all our names.

Gunma, I haven't spoken to you in detail about this yet, but...
Is that right?

"G" for Gunma, "O" for Orman, "C" for Kuroi, and "T" for Tamotsu. GOCT. The "C" is just to give it a spin.

That's right. If Honda supplies us engines, for example, we'd be GOCT Honda.
GOCT, huh...?

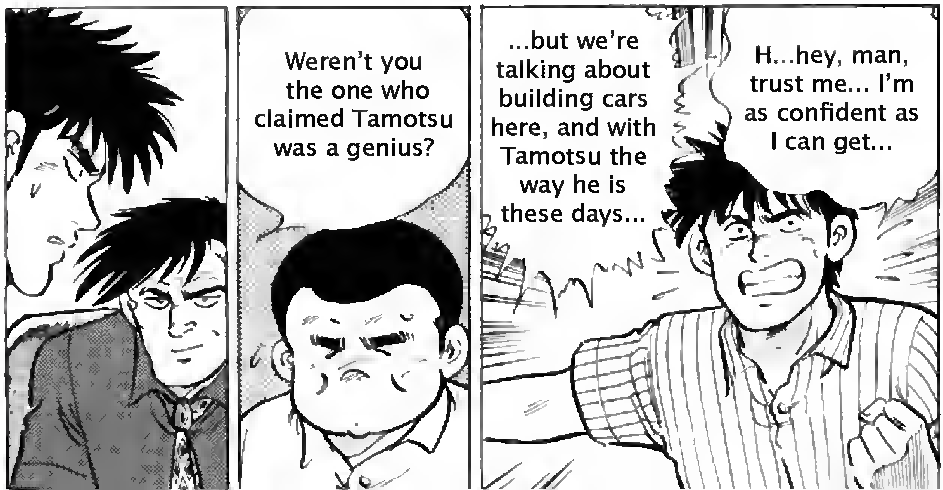
Gokudo?
..."Gokudo" to me!
GOCT... Heh, you guys look more like...
Man, you guys are a handful.
Not a bad idea! Gah hah hah.
Gah hah hah, Gokudo! Like the Yakuza!
That's right.
I don't even know if I can get my hands on an FIA Super License!
This is all a pipe dream!
Plus, we got Tamotsu cuttin' corners.
I finished sixth. Sixth place, dammit!
HA HA HA
It's not a joke!
In other words, we're the bad guys launching a raid on F1! Man, that's good!
HA HA

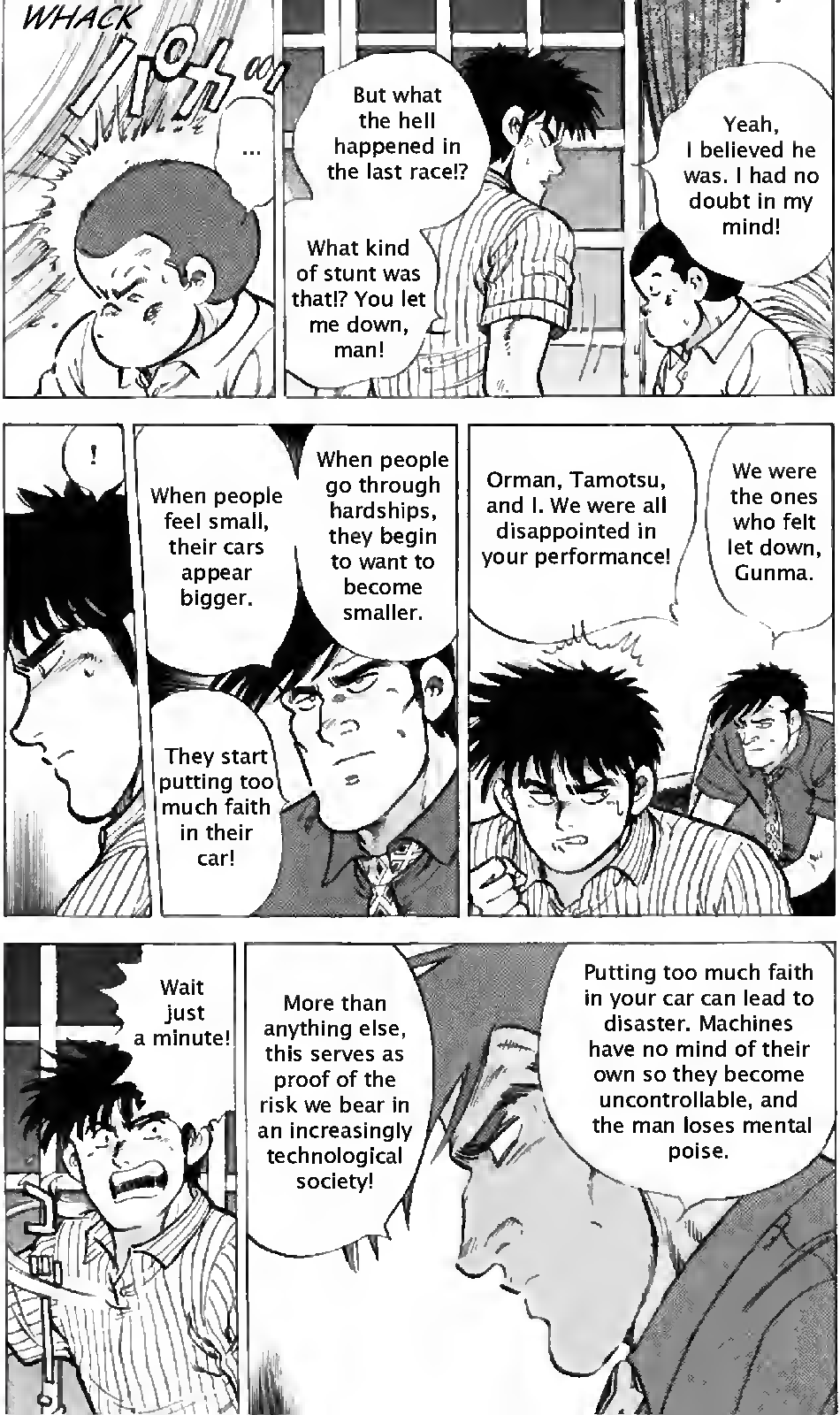
What the hell are you guys thinking!?

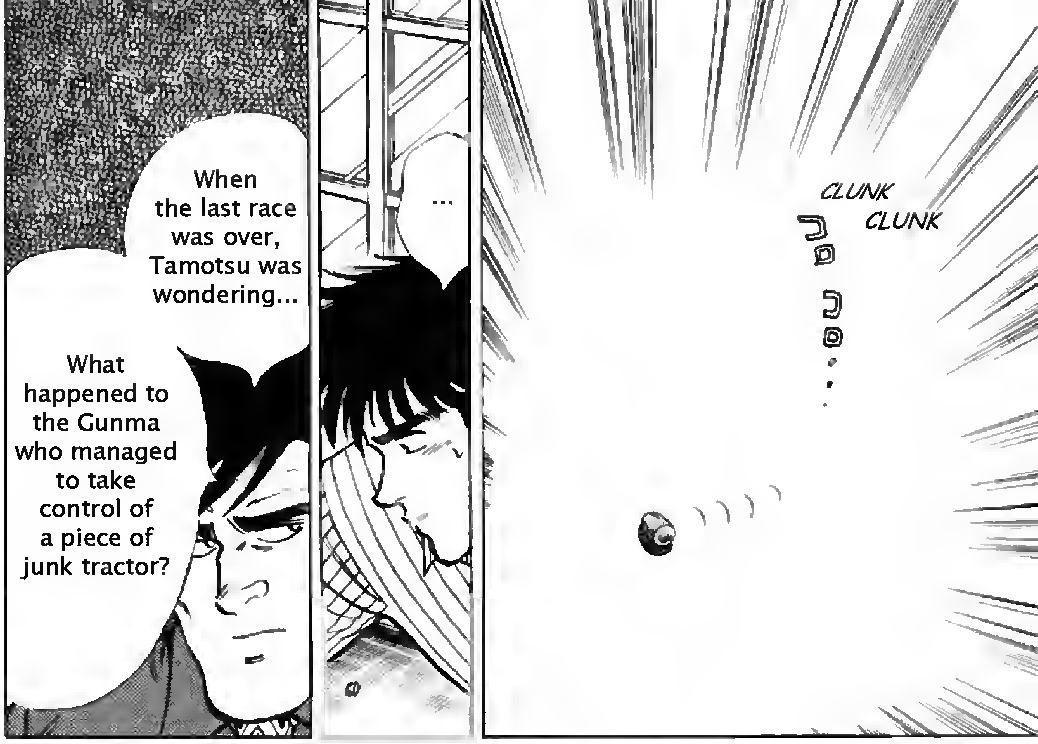
This season, you placed first twice, second once, third twice, and sixth once in the last race.
Huh?

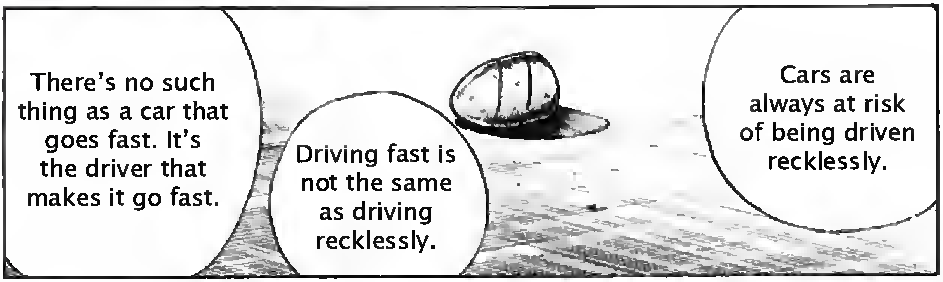
What about you? What are you freaking out about?
...

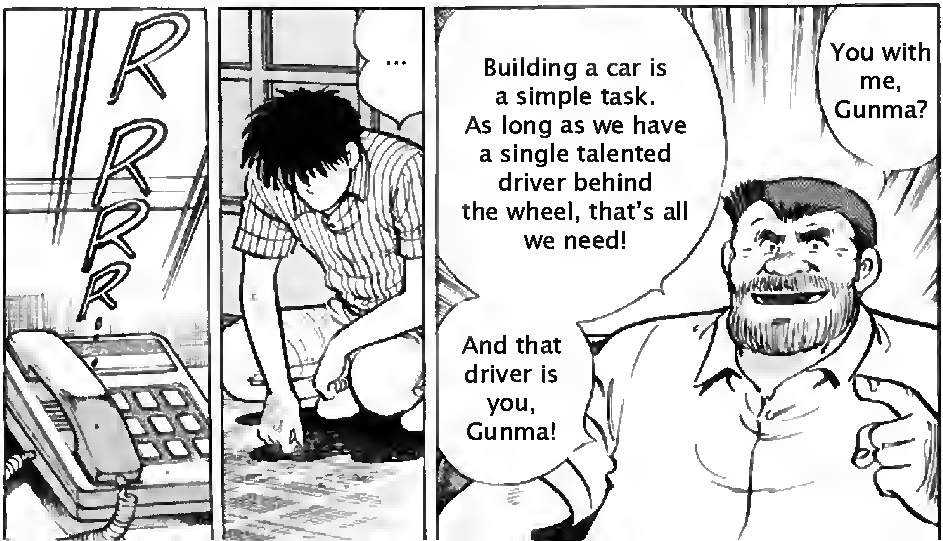
...then you must have a chance at it, too!
If Jesus can get his hands on a Super License...


Weren't you the one who claimed Tamotsu was a genius?
...but we're talking about building cars here, and with Tamotsu the way he is these days...
H...hey, man, trust me... I'm as confident as I can get...


WHACK
...
But what the hell happened in the last race!?
What kind of stunt was that!? You let me down, man!
Yeah, I believed he was. I had no doubt in my mind!
!
When people feel small, their cars appear bigger.
When people go through hardships, they begin to want to become smaller.
They start putting too much faith in their car!
Orman, Tamotsu, and I. We were all disappointed in your performance!
We were the ones who felt let down, Gunma.
Wait just a minute!
More than anything else, this serves as proof of the risk we bear in an increasingly technological society!
Putting too much faith in your car can lead to disaster. Machines have no mind of their own so they become uncontrollable, and the man loses mental poise.

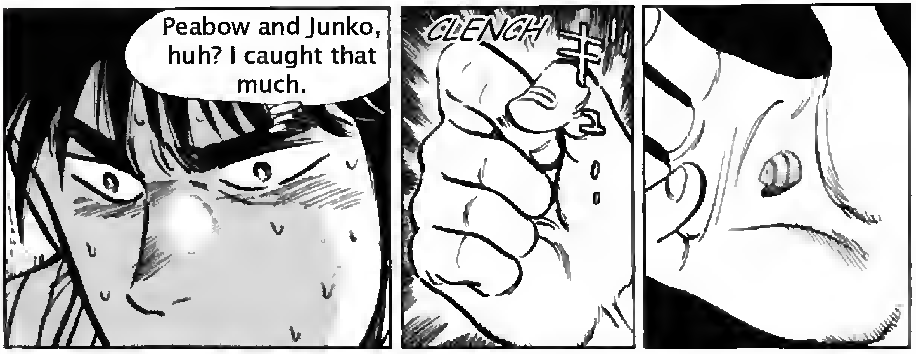

When the last race was over, Tamotsu was wondering...
What happened to the Gunma who managed to take control of a piece of junk tractor?
...
CLUNK
CLUNK
コロコロ...


There's no such thing as a car that goes fast. It's the driver that makes it go fast.
Driving fast is not the same as driving recklessly.
Cars are always at risk of being driven recklessly.


RRRR
...
Building a car is a simple task. As long as we have a single talented driver behind the wheel, that's all we need!
And that driver is you, Gunma!
You with me, Gunma?

It's for you, Gunma.
Hey Gunma, you speak any English!?
They're at...
Listen up, 'cause I'm about to tell you where Junko and Peabow are!
No idea.
Who was it?
CLICK
...
!?
I'm off.
Well, let's continue talking about this pipe dream next time.
Probably a fan or some-thing.
He said some stuff in English and then he hung up.

Wait, Gunma! We're not finished here!


Peabow and Junko, huh? I caught that much.
CLENCH

DASH

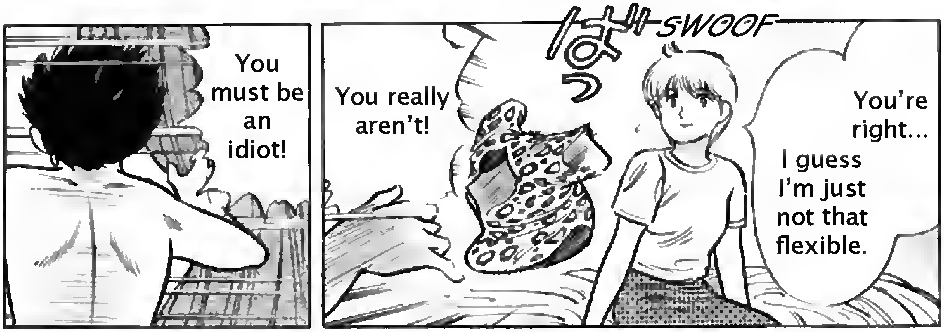
Chapter 10: Dawn

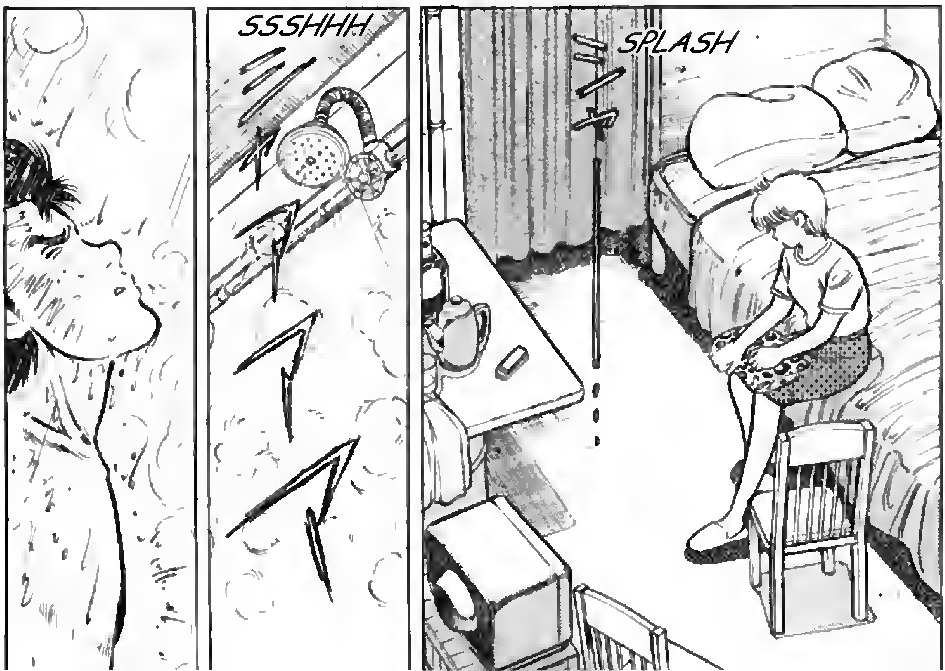
I mean... Could a real man...
...just leave a fit bird like that?
I wonder if Gunma will really show.
Oh, he'll come. I'm sure of it!
Tonight's your last chance for a romantic night with Junko, Peabow.
Yeah, I think he will.
He's got to come, right!?
In any case, we're just spectators now.
If Peabow and Gunma go at it, and Peabow kills Gunma, we can go to Peabow and call him our brother again.
And if Gunma does Peabow in, well, it serves him right.
Who's side are you on mate?
It doesn't really matter now, does it?

Come over here.
CLIMB
You're just askin' for it!
Why are you talkin' like that?
Tsk.
It's just a scratch. It'll be fine!
Don't make this weird.
I just wanted to disinfect your wound.
Pfft...
I'll do it! I'll do it again...
No it won't.
Get off me!

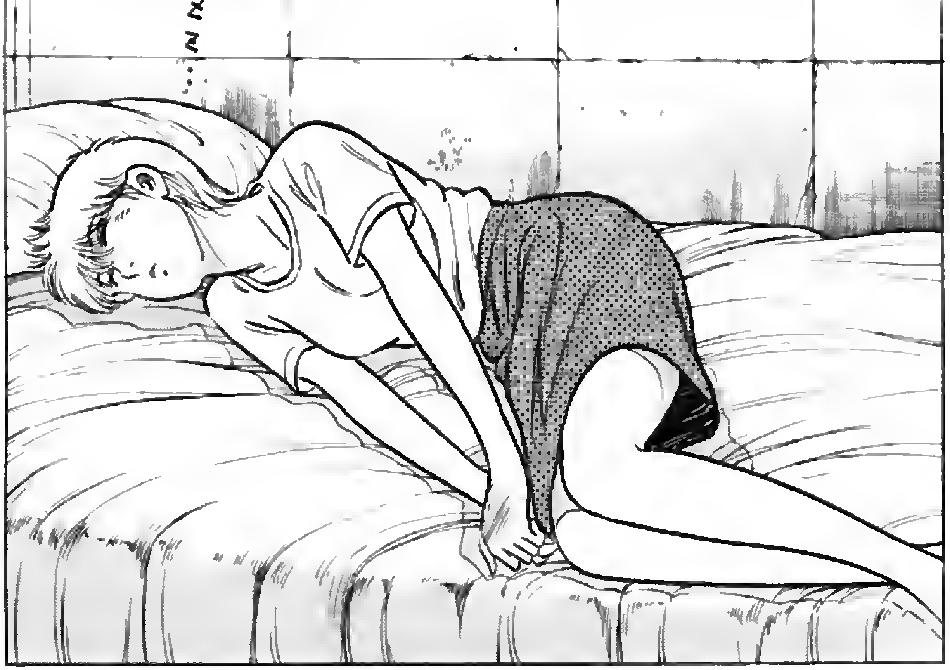
You really have a good heart, don't you, Peabow?
I thought I told you...
You made me so happy back there...
Saving me from those guys...
...
Is that right? Sorry...
I'm already crazy, but...
Hey, watch it. Don't be gettin' cheeky.
I can get crazy!
And you too...
Sako was...
Why are Japanese women...
...so whole-hearted?
I'm not sure if I love him or not...
...
It's all too much!
Living with a guy like me, and working the register at a grocery store... All for the man you love...

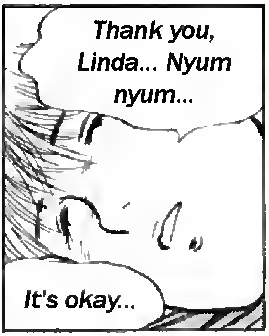
There are other brighter paths! Ones without thugs jumping you from the shad-ows!
There are tons of paths you can take! Why do you have to take the roughest one!?
That's why I want to protect him.
And you too, Peabow.
To me, Gunma is sort of a signpost to keep me going in the right direction...

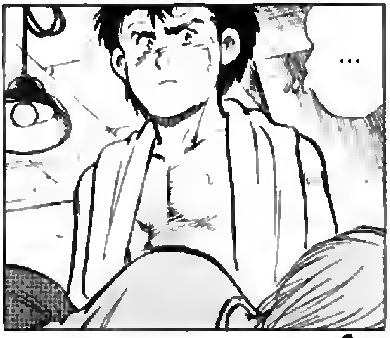

You must be an idiot!
You really aren't!
SWOOF
You're right... I guess I'm just not that flexible.


SSSHHH
SPLASH

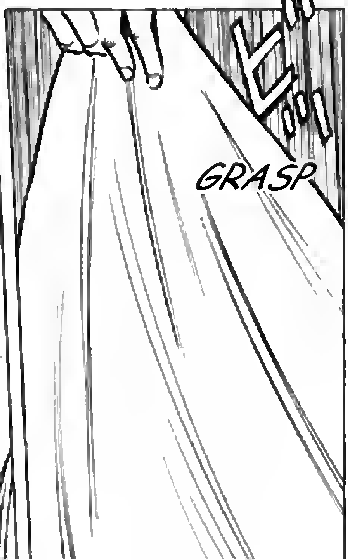
はふ…
HUFF
I'm so tired.
…
HUFF
ZSSHHH
I gotta settle this once and for all.
I gotta do it quick.
Z…




Thank you, Linda... Nyum nyum...
It's okay...

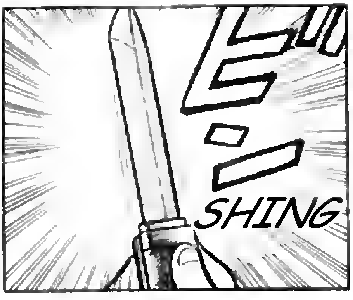

...

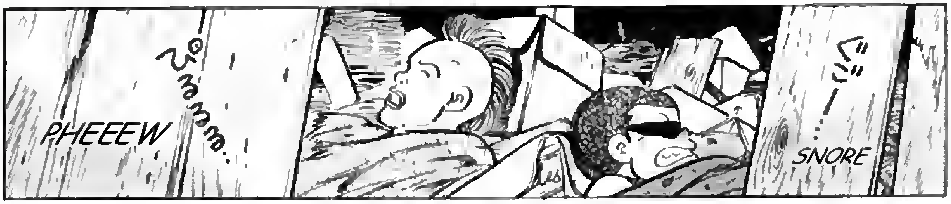
FLAP


GRASP

ZZZZ...

I can't leave Junko in that state.
I have to finish it as soon as possible.


SHING

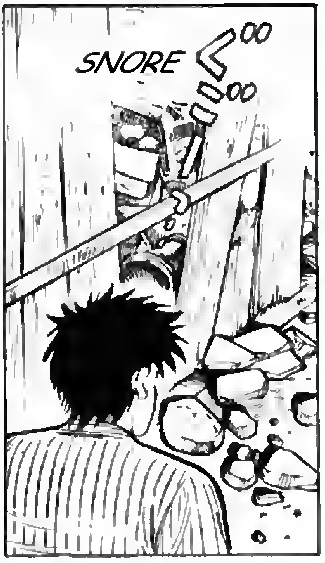

PHEEEW
SNORE

PHEEW

Man, they're just kids.

It must be these guys who called me.

SNORE



...as Peabow ...

They're about the same age...

SNORE

PHEEW

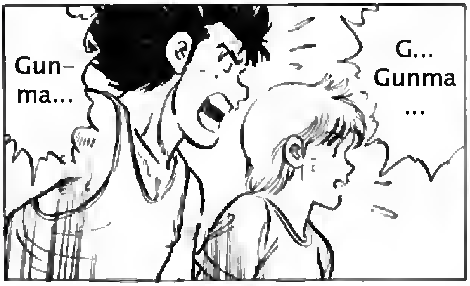
I ain't goin' easy on them.

But I don't care how young they are.

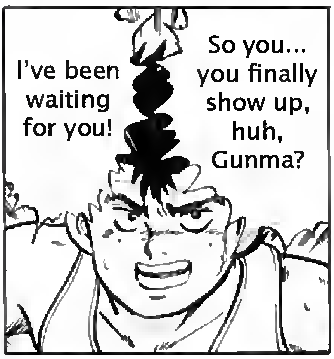
I'm sick of waiting. Why don't you take me to Peabow now?
Just gettin' up, kids?
Aww, man, I fell asleep. Hey, Ron, get up...
!?
ACHOO
Nyum ...

BANG
BANG
BANG
Peabow, get up! Gunma's coming!
Gunma's just outside!
Crap, it's Gunma!

WHAM
G... Gunma!?


Gun-ma...
G... Gunma ...

Heh heh. Rise and shine.


I've been waiting for you!
So you... you finally show up, huh, Gunma?

But I guess it suits you, Peabow.

You're just askin' for rats and cockroaches.
Man, this place is a dump!

Cut it out, Peabow!
Heh! A little rascal who screwed your girl!
Ya little rascal.
Quit talkin' like yer all that.
Shut your mouth.
Stop it, Gunma. Calm down, please.
By "screw," you mean she put you on her lap and lullabied you to sleep, right? Hah hah hah!
I did it with Junko. More than once, I'll have you know!
You with Junko. Hah! Don't make me laugh.
Wait, who? You? You screwed her?
HA HA
!!
Do it if you wanna prove yourself!
Then show me, kid! Come on, do her right here, while I watch!
G... Gunma ...
GRIP

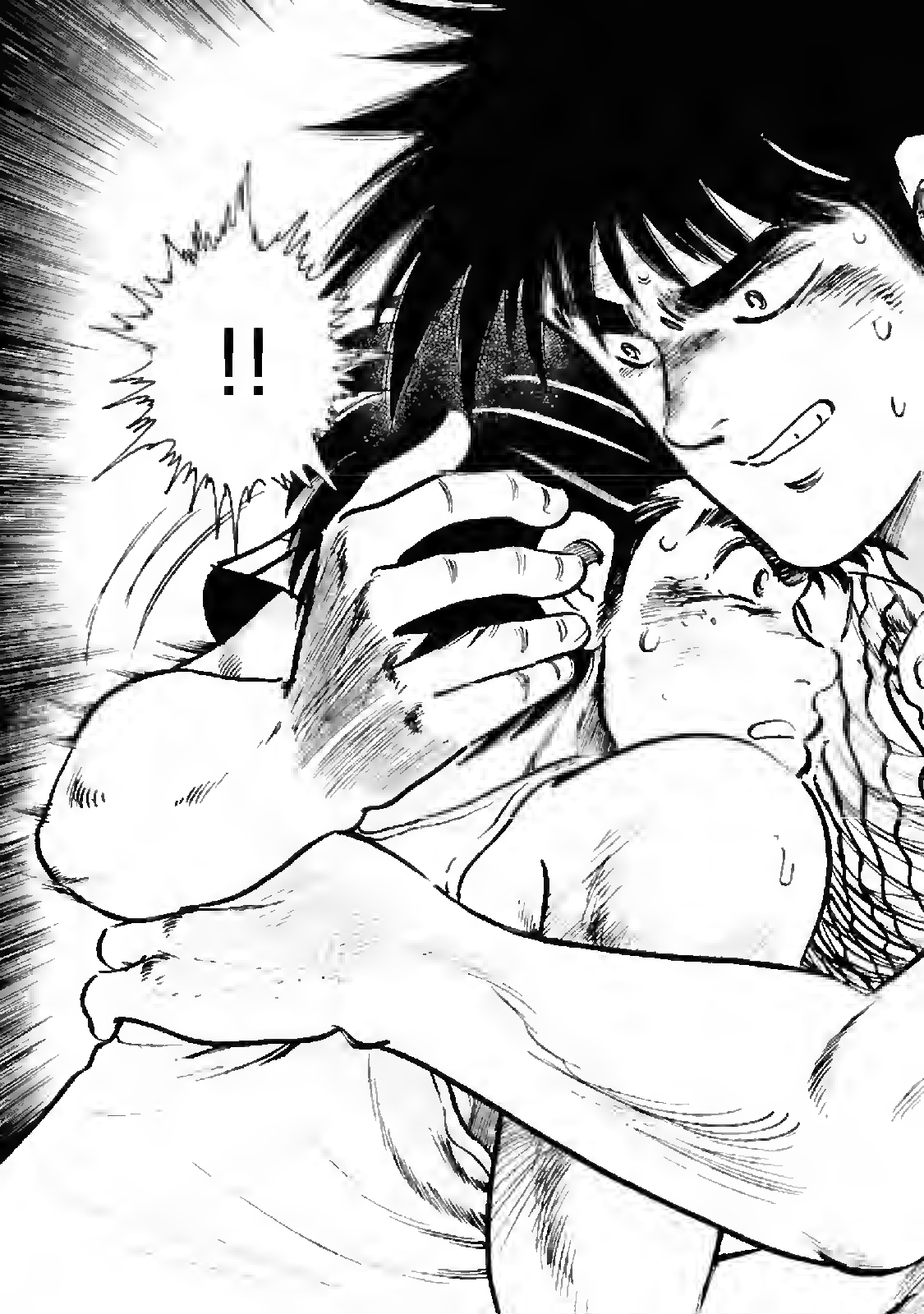
Wh...
...!
If you really are a man, screw her right here!
What's wrong? Come on, screw her!
Huh?
What's wrong? Can't do it?
You miserable prick.
What you said on the phone, that was a load of bull, huh?
...
...
WOOSH
If you don't have the balls...
Just shut up.
Shut your mouth, Gunma... You bastard...

No... Stop it!
...then I'll do her instead.
Watch and learn, kid!
G...
Ah...
WOOSH
... Gun-ma!
Get off her...

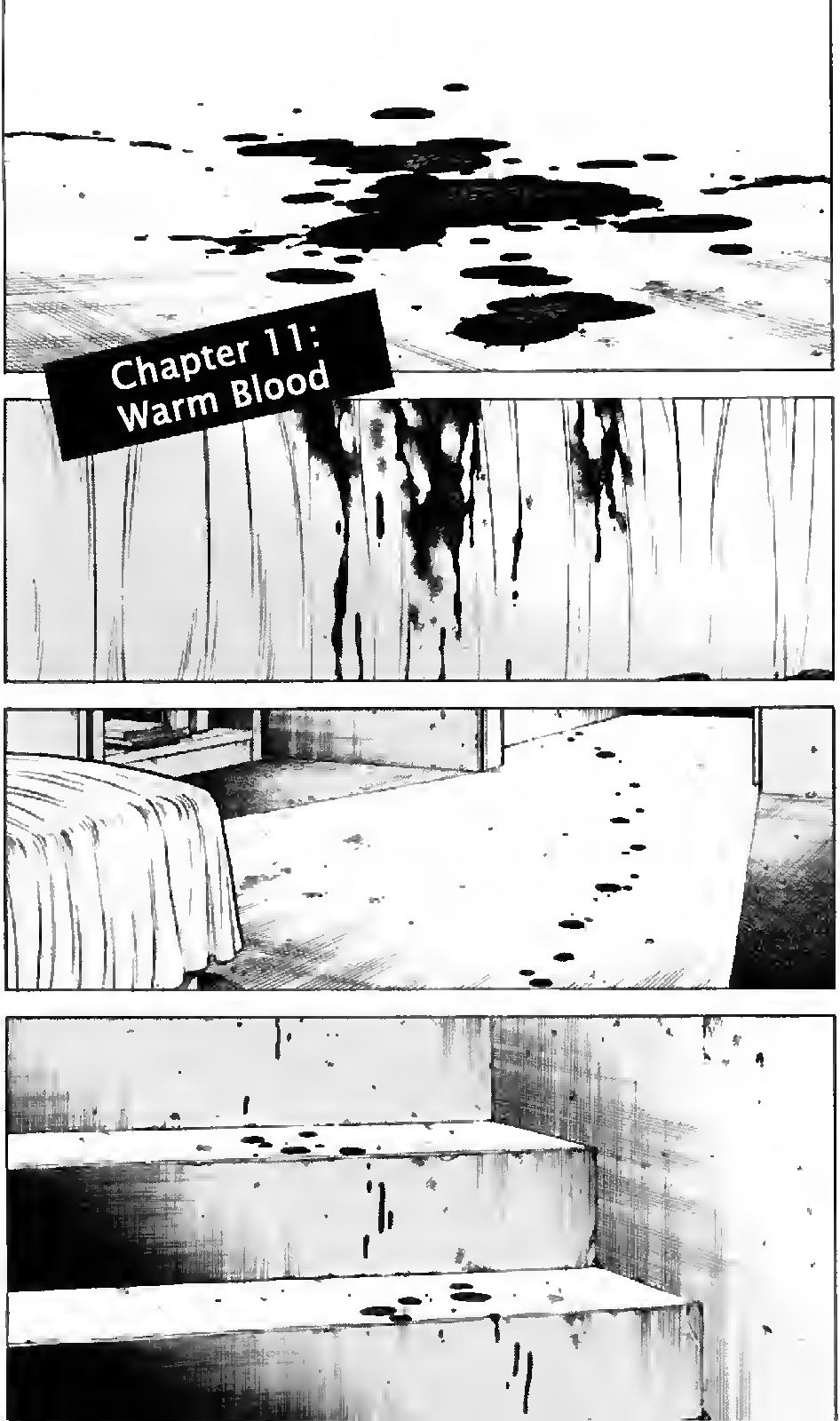
I'll kill you!
Pea-bow!
WHIRL
WHAM

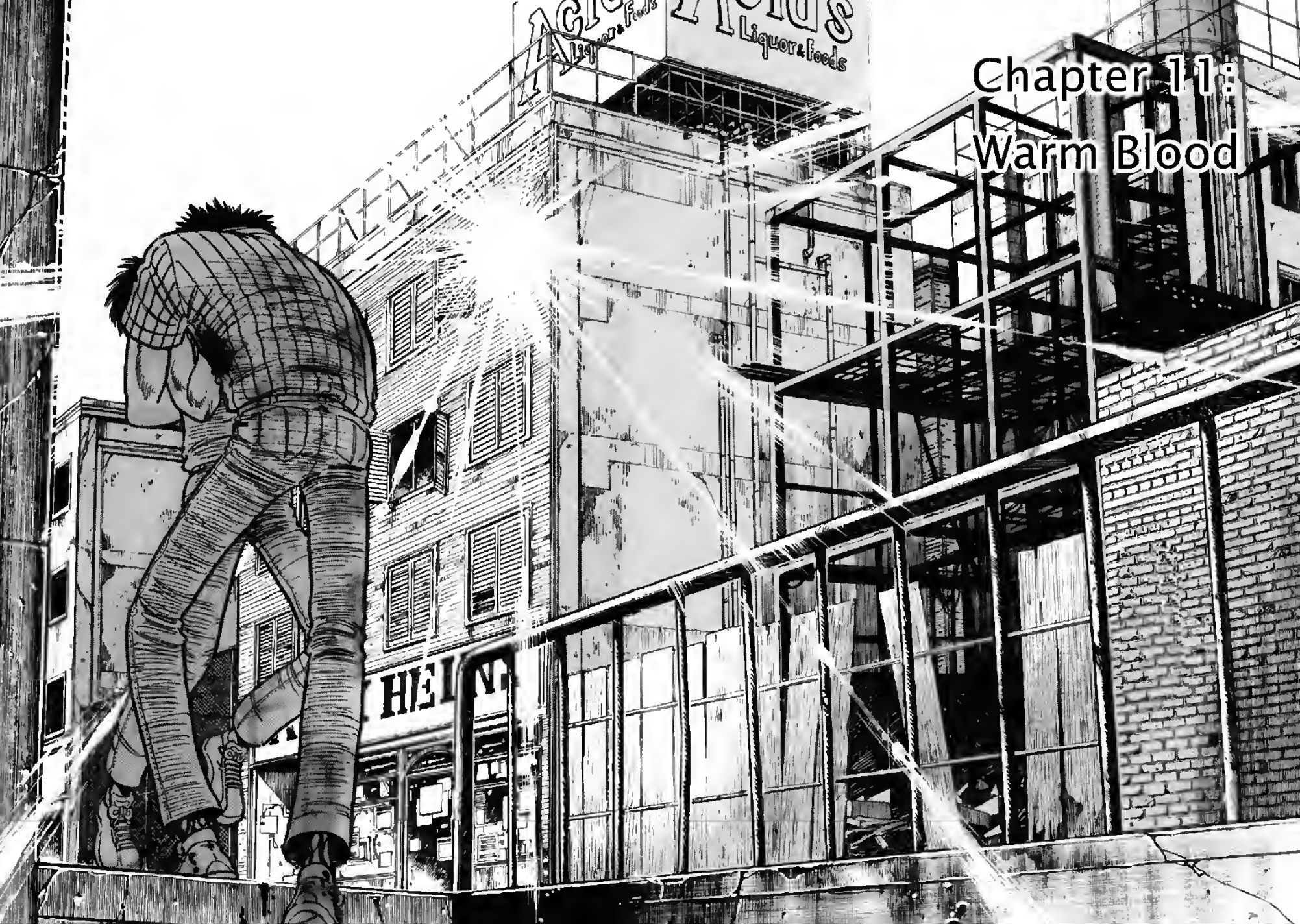
!!
SHANK
G...
Gunma!

G...
Gunma!
SHANK



...you pips-queak ...
I finally...
...got you now...
!?

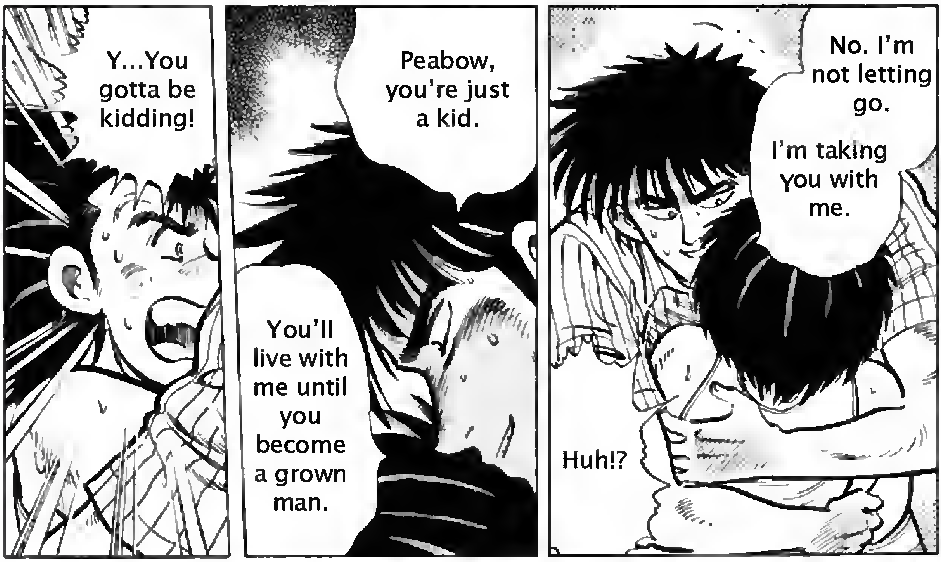

Chapter 11:
Warm Blood



Chapter 11: Warm Blood

Chapter 11: Warm Blood

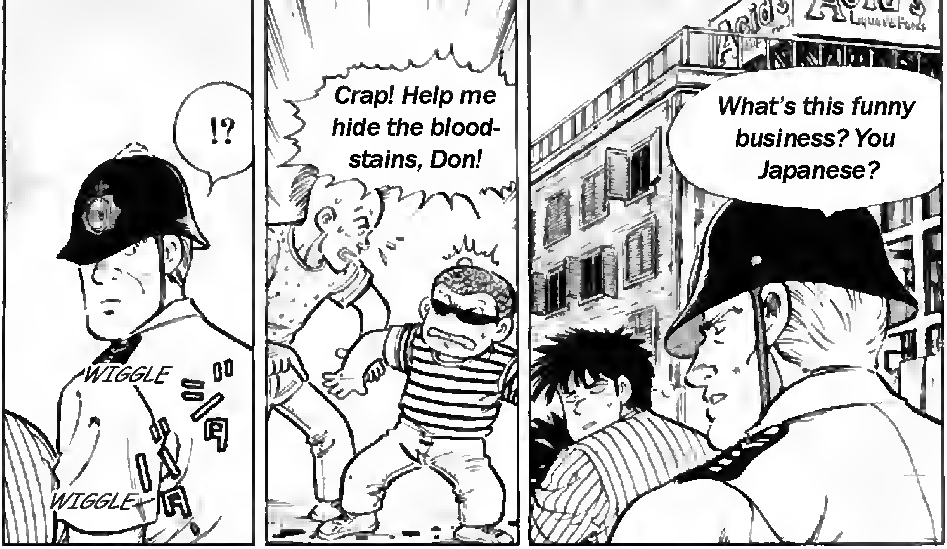
I said, let go!
L...Let go of me, Gunma.


Y...You gotta be kidding!
Peabow, you're just a kid.
You'll live with me until you become a grown man.
No. I'm not letting go.
I'm taking you with me.
Huh!?

KRRRR
Nope, not kidding. I'm serious.
DRIP
DRIP

Stay out of it. This is no job for a woman.
Please, let go of him! You're bleeding too much!
Gun-ma!
Peabow ...
Quit standing around and get us a ride. Not in any condition to walk here.
N... No!
Gunma, please.
GLARE
P... Peabow.
Ron! Don! Get this guy off me!
I'm not going anywhere with you!
Women and kids are powerless against me.
Let me tell you some-thing.
What're you gonna do?

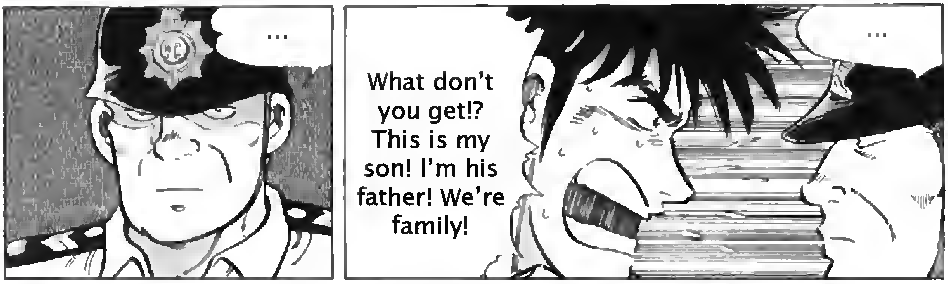
...!
Go, Junko!
HUFF
HUFF
...
DASH
!!
Hey, you two! What's going on over there!?


!?
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
Crap! Help me hide the blood-stains, Don!
What's this funny business? You Japanese?

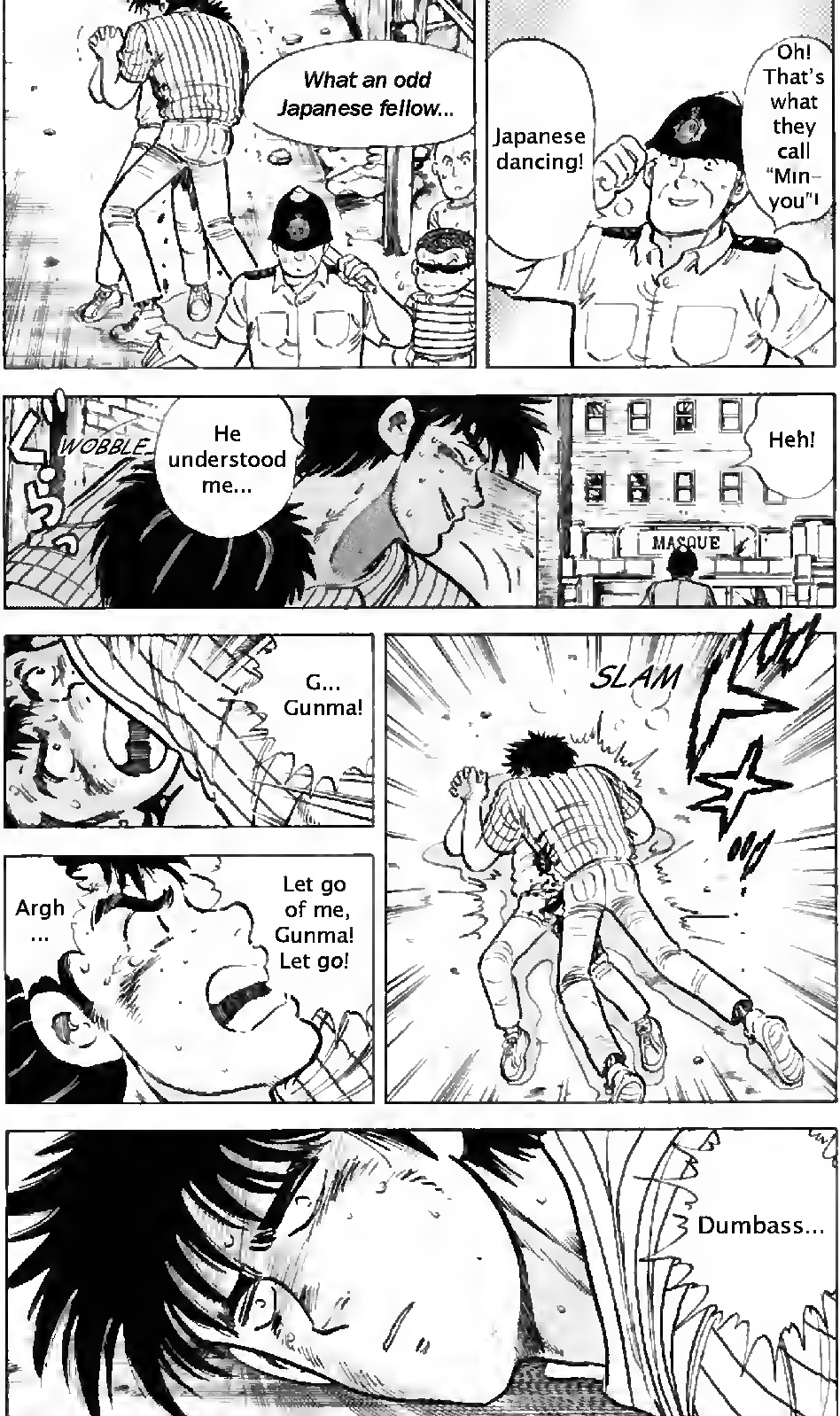
You hear me? What's going on here? Answer me!
Heh heh heh...
SWF
SWF

Dancing!?
!?
LASQUE
Dan-cing!
Like I said, we're dancing!
Is my pronun-ciation that bad?

We are famiry! Okay!?
Dis izu my son!
!

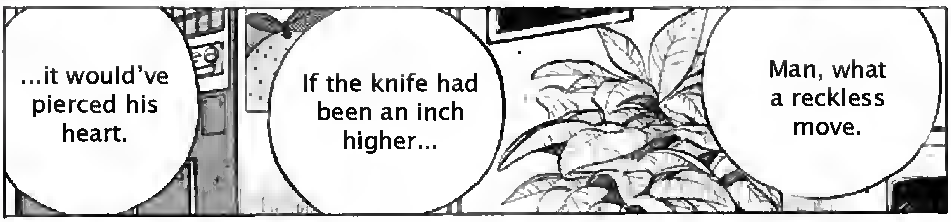

...
What don't you get!? This is my son! I'm his father! We're family!
...

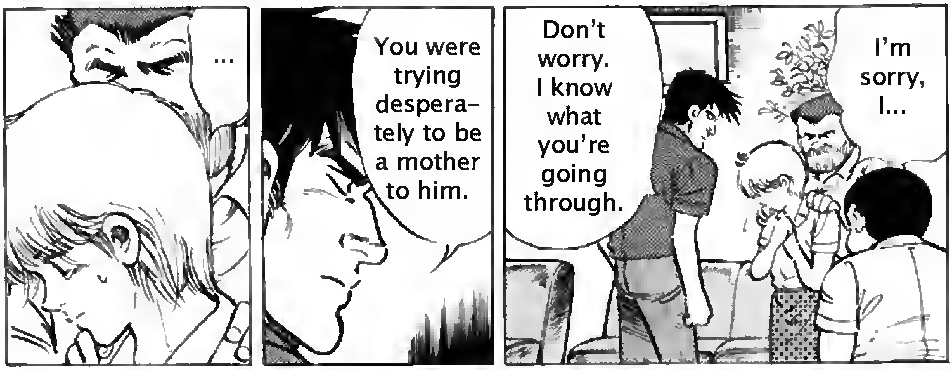
Tsuki ga pon to derya, popon ga poi ha dokkoi!
Jo, Joushuu gunma wa akagiyama, a, yoisho...
...?
Let's do it!
Dancing! We're dancing, all right!?


What an odd Japanese fellow...
Japanese dancing!
Oh! That's what they call "Min-you"!
WOBBLE
He understood me...
Heh!
MASQUE
G... Gunma!
SLAM
Argh ...
Let go of me, Gunma! Let go!
Dumbass...

Wahh!
I'm begging you, let go! Wahhh! Wahh!
I'm drenched! I'm covered in your blood!
Y...Your blood is all over...
I don't want this! Don't do this, Gunma!
Don't die, Gunma...
Please, don't die! Wahh! Wahh!
Wahh!

General Hospital


...it would've pierced his heart.
If the knife had been an inch higher...
Man, what a reckless move.

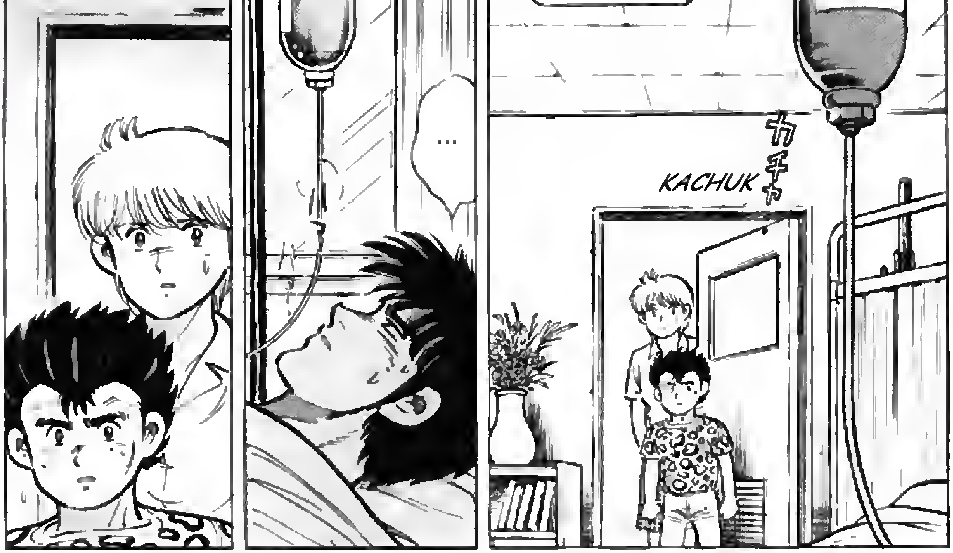

...
You were trying desperately to be a mother to him.
Don't worry. I know what you're going through.
I'm sorry, I...

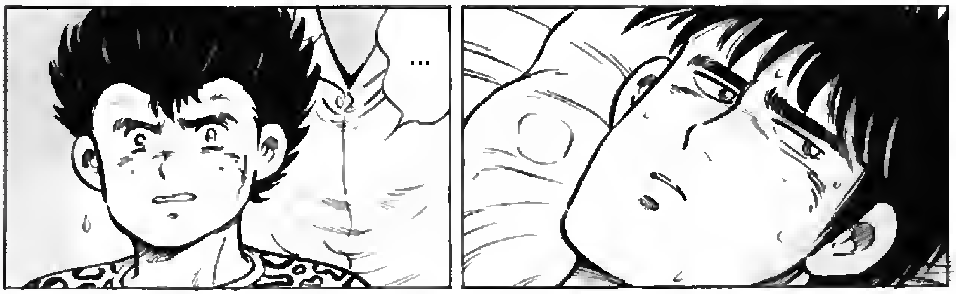
...
That's the story, isn't it?
And Gunma... He tried to be a father in his own way...

Dad!
D...
Screw Yuki right here in front of me, Gunma!

I can't believe you just said that!
A real man has to be ready to perform with a woman any place, any time.

Dad...
D...
Take a good long look, Gunma!
If you can't handle it, watch how a real man performs.
Stop it, Dad! Stop!


...
KACHUK
カチャ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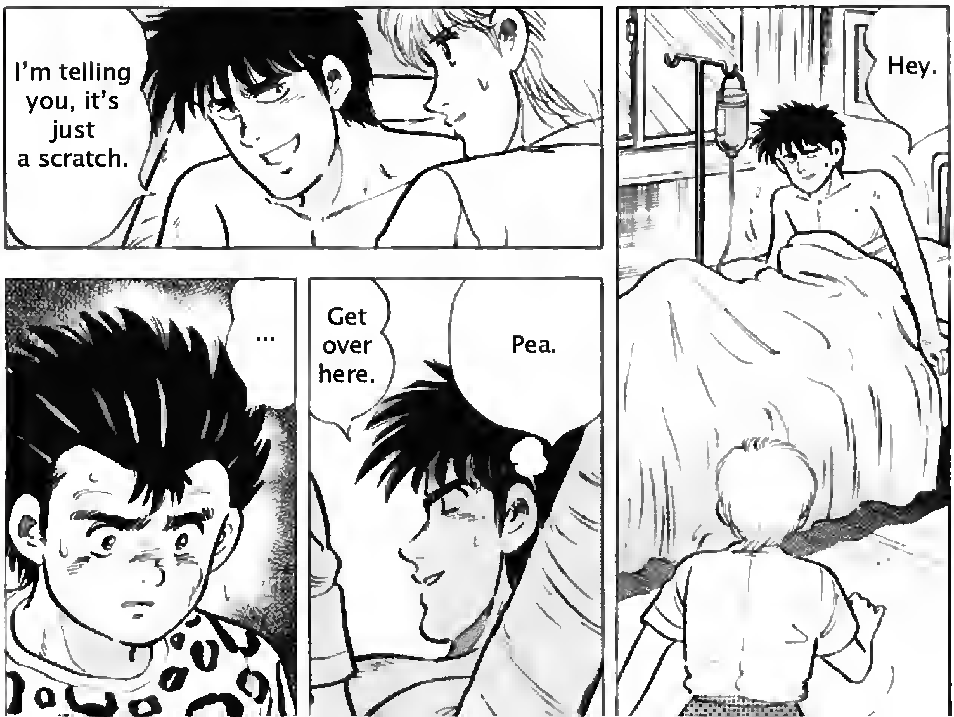
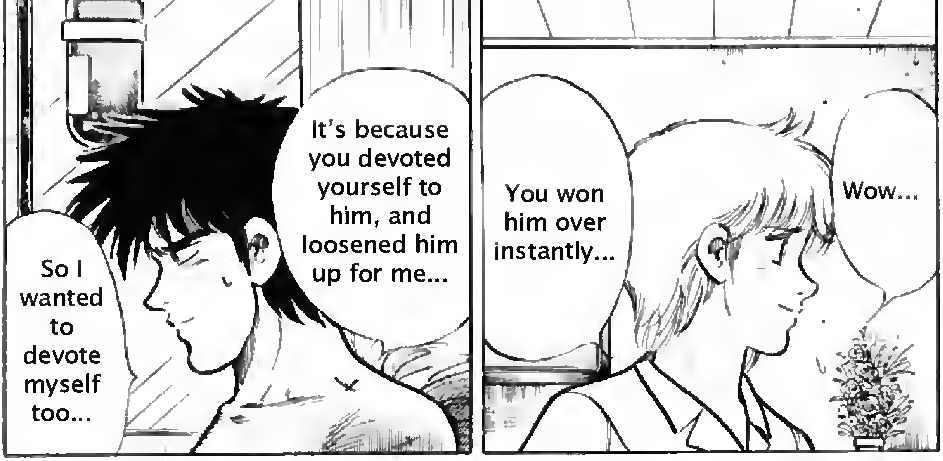
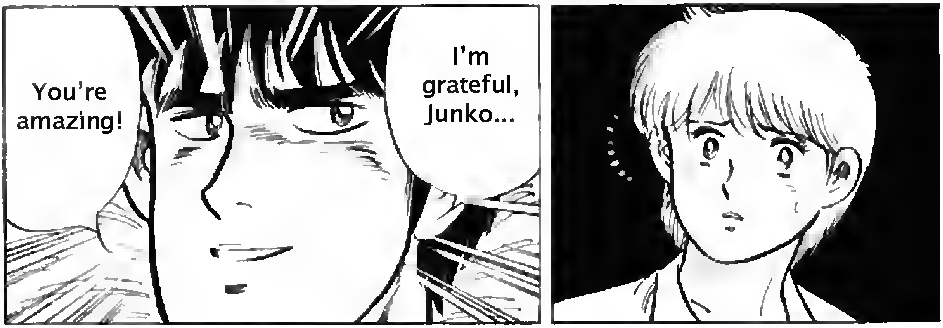

I'm telling you, it's just a scratch.
Hey.
...
Get over here.
Pea.

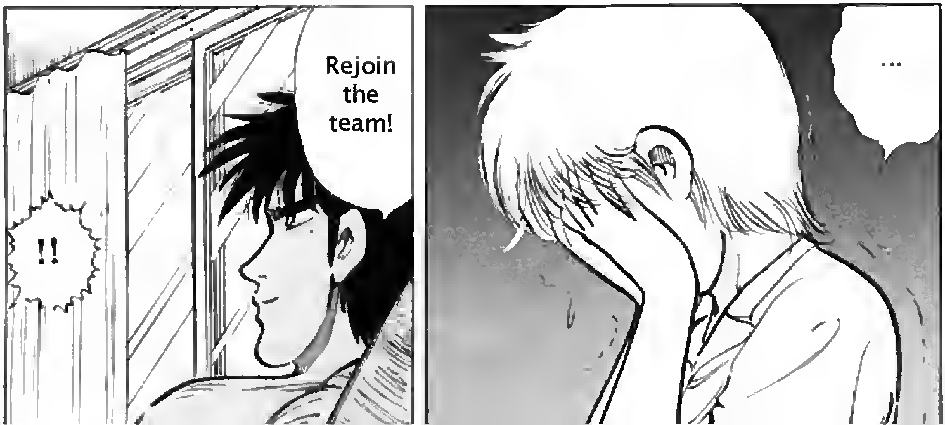
Gunma... I... I...
Gun- ma!
DASH
Dumb kid.
Quit yer sobbin'.
Your blood was so warm...
Ow... Ow ow ow!
BAM
Hah hah.
Of course it was.
I'm alive, after all.
Gunma... Your blood... It was...

I'll train you.
Join our team. Work with us. Become a racer.
Pea-bow.
Race, kid.
Recently, I've started to learn something.
I've been racing like a madman these past years.
...you're even more of a kid.
I'm just a kid, but...
You only start to understand when you become a man.
It's something that a kid can't understand.
...
...there are some incredible people in this world!
I've learned ...

I'm here! What is it?
KACHIK
Where's Tamo? Isn't he here?
All right?
Just do it!
Gunma... I...
Put this kid on the team.
I want you to look after him!
Okay...
...
...
SLAM
O... Okay...
Come on, Peabow. Lemme introduce you to the big boys.


It's because you devoted yourself to him, and loosened him up for me...
So I wanted to devote myself too...
You won him over instantly...
Wow...


You're amazing!
I'm grateful, Junko...


Rejoin the team!
!!
...

Of course you can!
Can I really!?
Can I...!?
I really can...
... really?

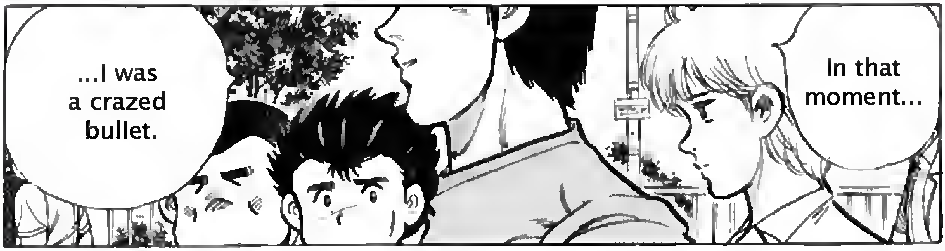
Chapter 12:
Crazed Bullet

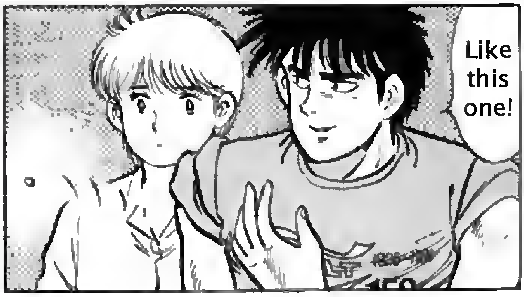
P
Pay at meter
Display ticket
Birming-ham...
021 236 8236
021-236 1751

SUPER PRIX
I nearly died.
Last year, I got in a serious accident here...

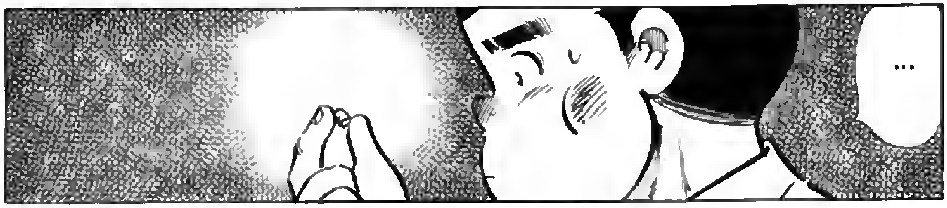
Yeah...
...that Sako's story appeared in the newspaper, wasn't it?
That was the day...
COLT 150

Before I knew it, I was in the cockpit. My hand was on the wheel.
The light turned green...
I went insane. My mind left this world.
Just before the race, I saw the article and learned about what happened.

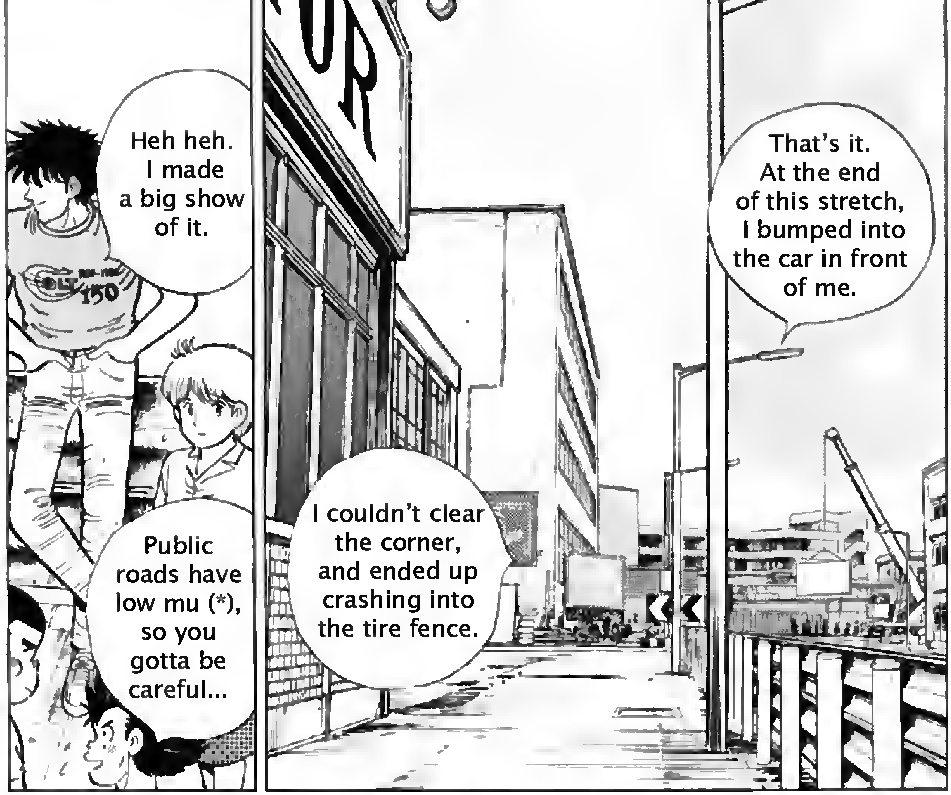

...I was a crazed bullet.
In that moment...


Like this one!

A bullet!?

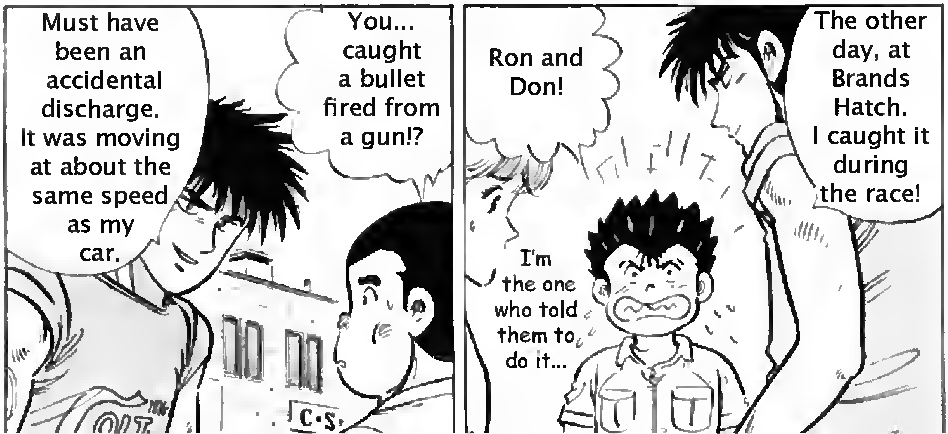

...

VREE
It was around here somewhere.
HONK
HONK

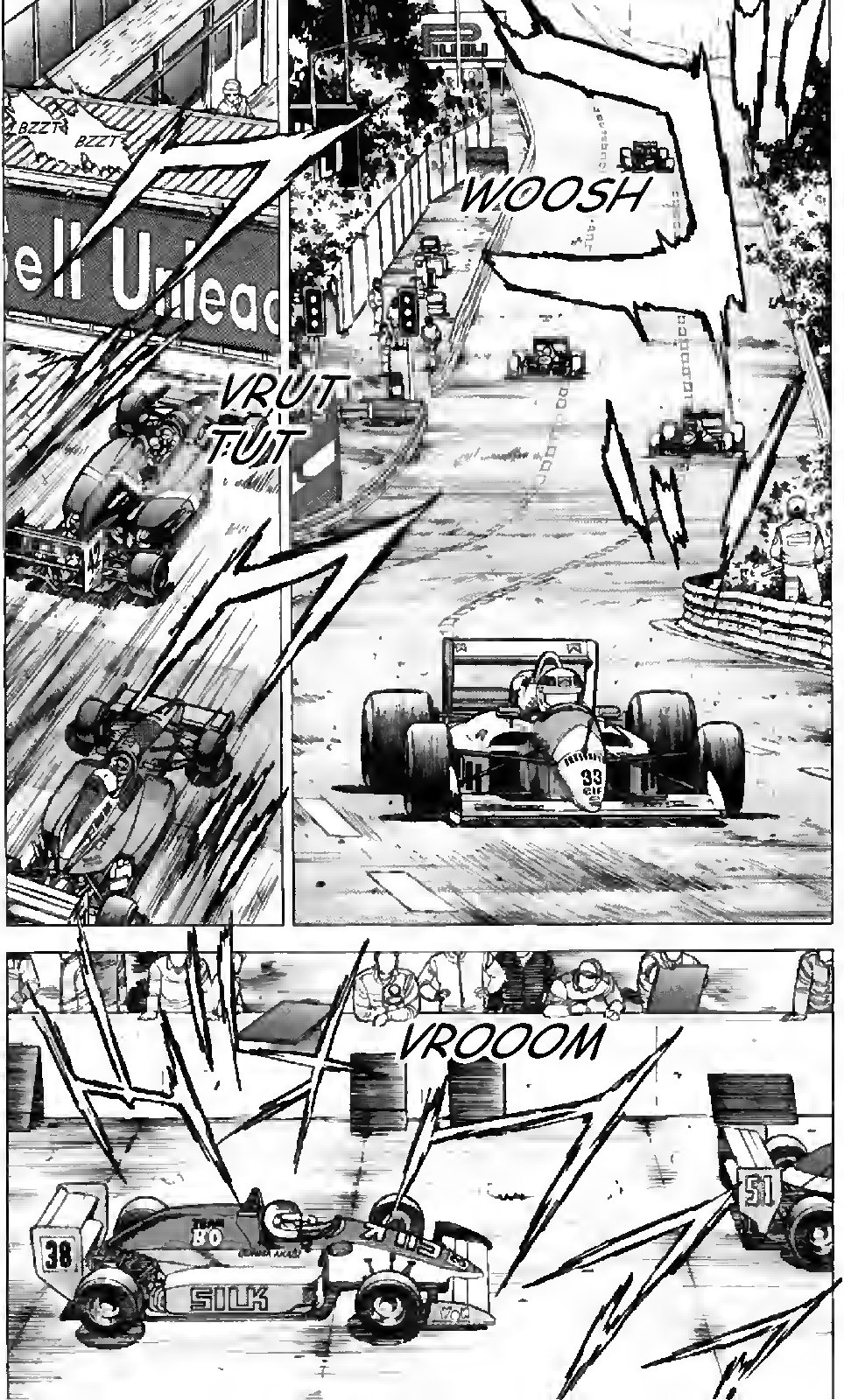

Heh heh. I made a big show of it.
Public roads have low mu (*), so you gotta be careful...
I couldn't clear the corner, and ended up crashing into the tire fence.
That's it. At the end of this stretch, I bumped into the car in front of me.

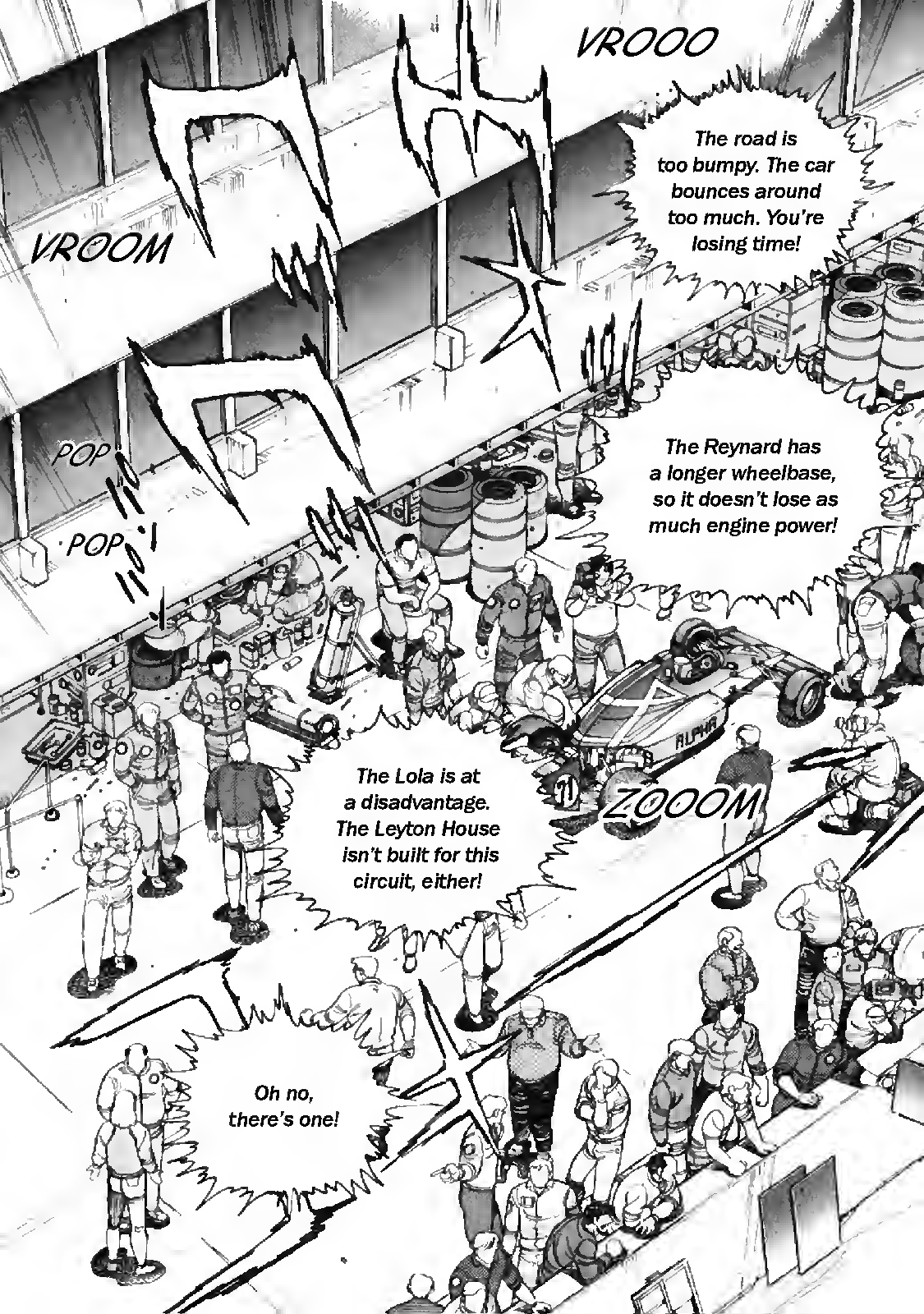
*Mu friction

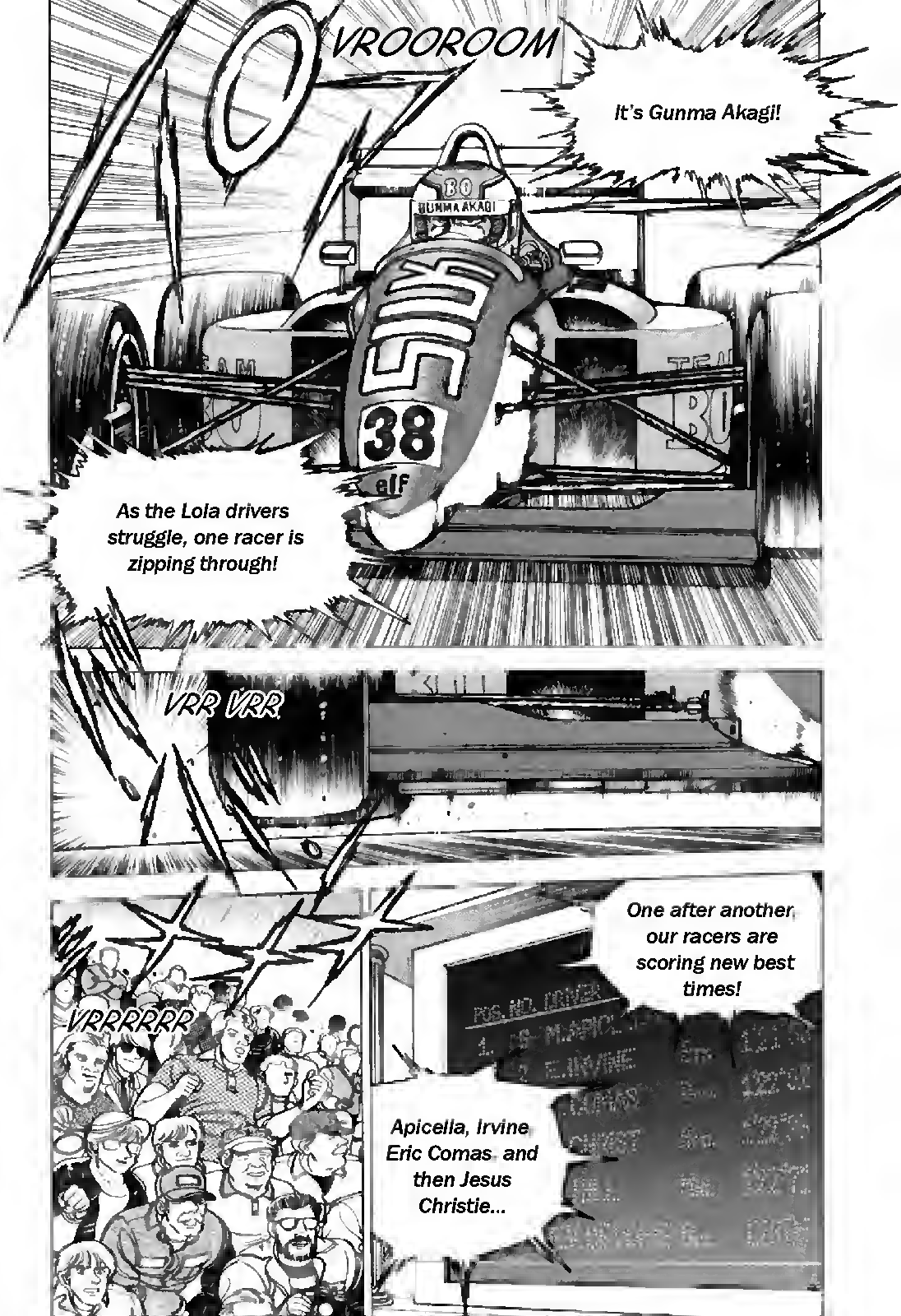
You... caught it!?
I caught it!
Where'd you get it?
Gunma ... This bullet ...


Must have been an accidental discharge. It was moving at about the same speed as my car.
You... caught a bullet fired from a gun!?
Ron and Don!
I'm the one who told them to do it...
The other day, at Brands Hatch. I caught it during the race!

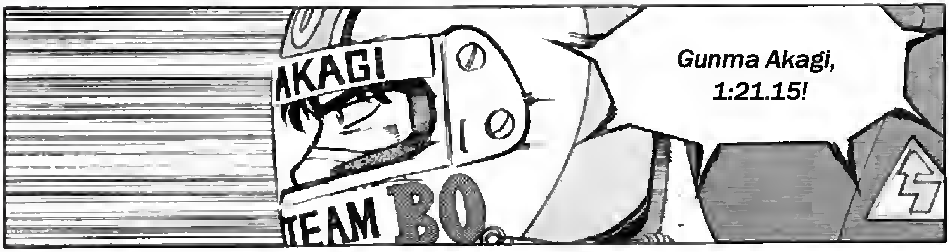
?
Now, as I stand here, I'm starting to realize what it meant...
I just caught it right then and there.
What's up with you, Gunma? It's not like you to apolo-gize.
I take it back. Forgive me.
Sorry I blamed you for skimping the repair job, Tamotsu.
I was starting to become something like a bullet.
Before I knew it, I was all caught up in the flow...
As ol' Kuroi was sayin', too much hardship can make a man feel small...
G... Gunma!
The rest—balance, control—that's all up to me!
Tamotsu, fix up a fast car for me. It just needs to be fast, that's it!
The car doesn't drive, it just moves. The man drives the car!
VROOOOOM
1896~1986
MOLE
50

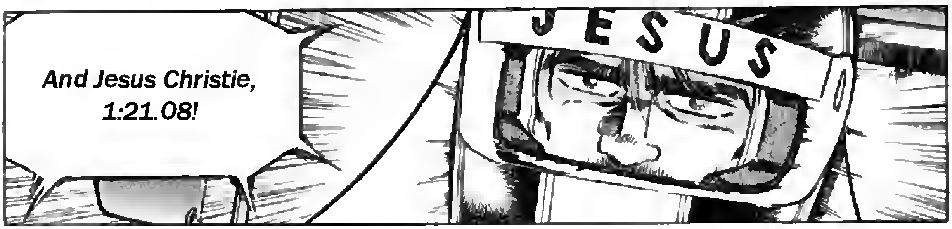

BZZT
BZZT
WOOSH
VRUT
TUT
33
VROOOM
38
TEAM BO
SILK
51


VROOO
VROOM
The road is too bumpy. The car bounces around too much. You're losing time!
POP
POP
The Reynard has a longer wheelbase, so it doesn't lose as much engine power!
ALPHA
71
ZOOOM
The Lola is at a disadvantage. The Leyton House isn't built for this circuit, either!
Oh no, there's one!

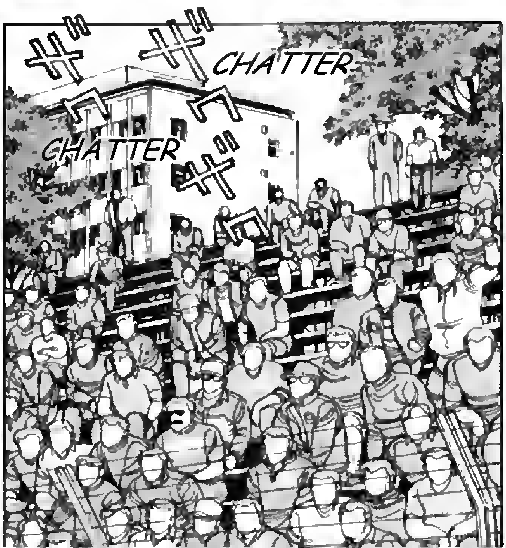

VROOROOM
It's Gunma Akagi!
38
elf
As the Lola drivers struggle, one racer is zipping through!
VRR VRR
VRRRRRR
One after another, our racers are scoring new best times!
Apicella, Irvine, Eric Comas, and then Jesus Christie...

ZOOM
Eddie Irvine clocks in at 1:21.30! Guess we'll call Session 1 of the preliminary a provisional ball.
2
Maaan!

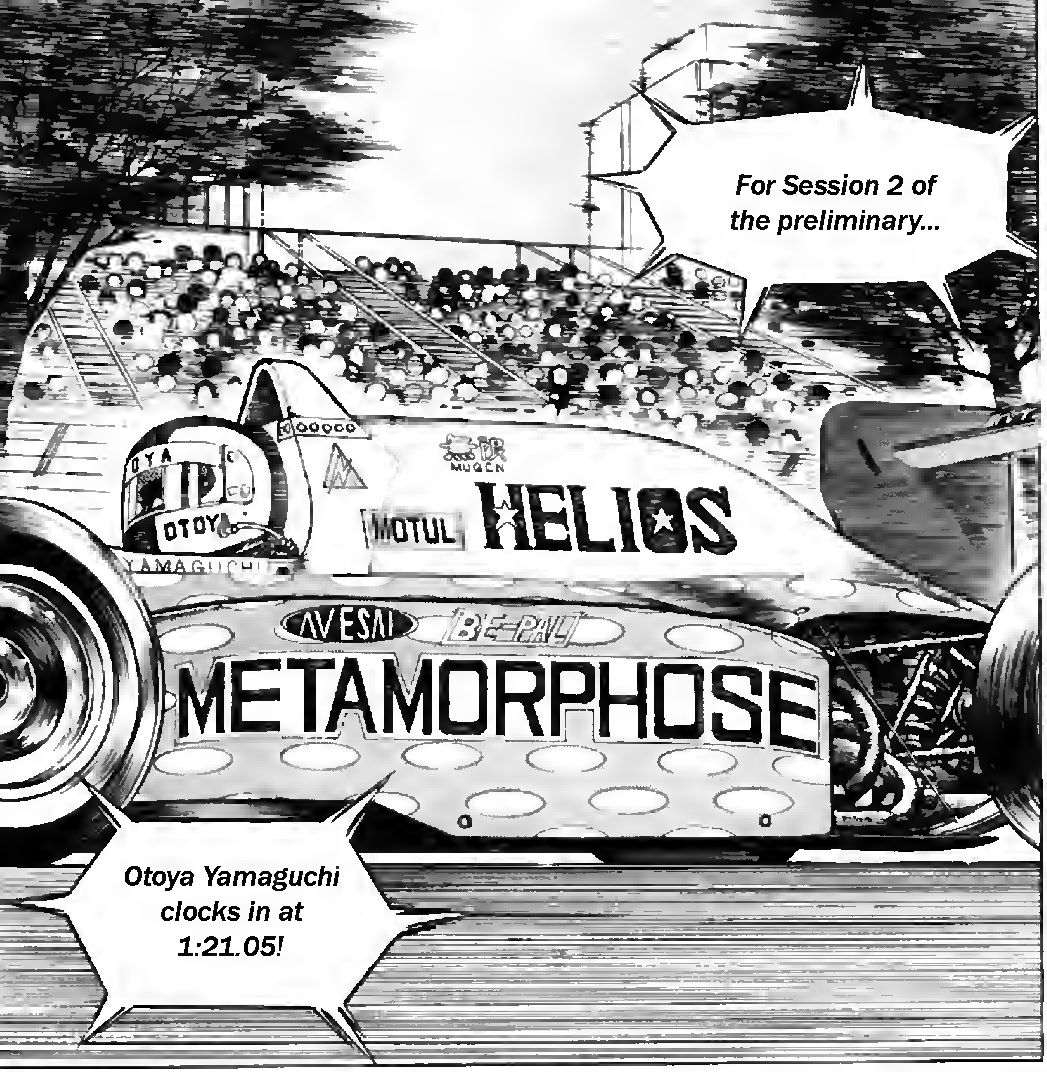

AKAGI
TEAM BO
Gunma Akagi, 1:21.15!

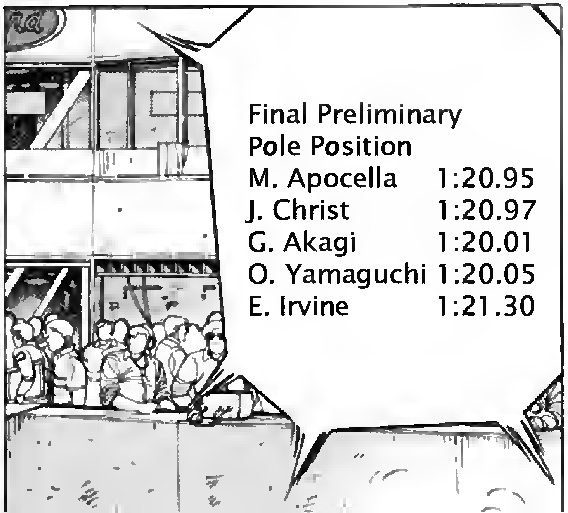

JESUS
And Jesus Christie, 1:21.08!

We'll have to place our bets on the second session...


CHATTER
CHATTER

Just do it!
I don't care!
OTOYA
Put the wing down, would ya? Can't get the time I want.
ME
That's dangerous! You won't get enough downforce!
Otoya!
Whatever happens, I'm gonna be up there with the best!
Just watch, Yuma.
YAMAGUCHI
All that matters...
We're racing on a public road. Either way, there aren't many passing points.
It's not reckless!
I know how you feel, but don't be reckless!
...!
Like a bullet!
...is that I'm fast on the straight portions!
MOTUL

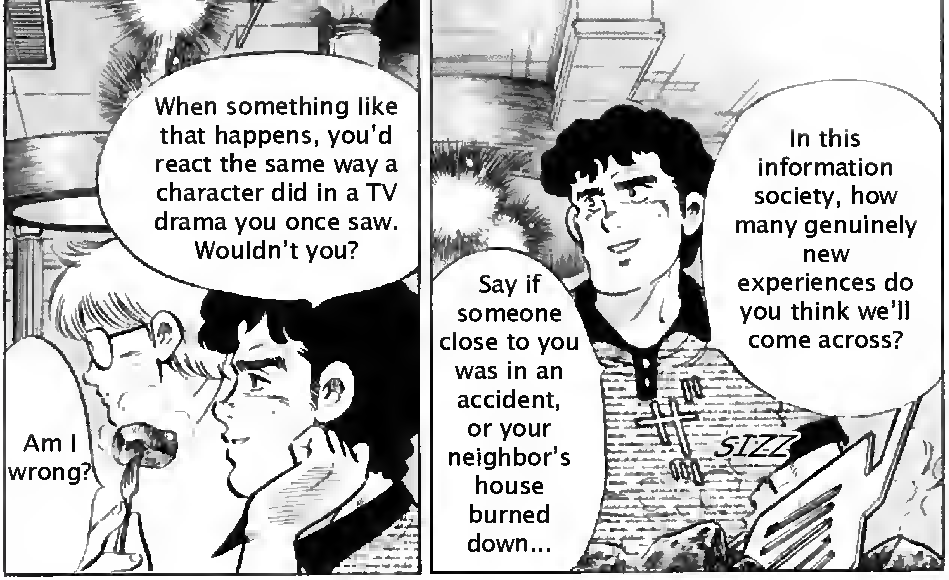

For Session 2 of the preliminary...
MOTUL
HELIOS
METAMORPHOSE
Otoya Yamaguchi clocks in at 1:21.05!

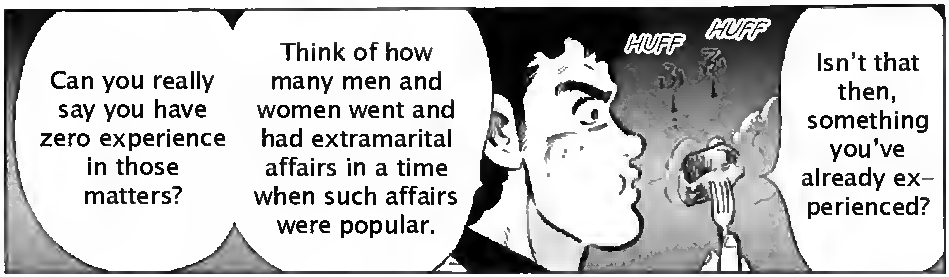

Final Preliminary
Pole Position
M. Apocella 1:20.95
J. Christ 1:20.97
G. Akagi 1:20.01
O. Yamaguchi 1:20.05
E. Irvine 1:21.30

You're ready to aim for first!
Congrats, Otoya! You did great!
SSSSSSSS
Woohoo! I'm fourth! Fourth place!
I managed to get right behind Gunma!
It's all because you've built up some solid skill!
SSS
Hey, come on. What are you saying?
All thanks to you, Yuma. I'm grateful that you were patient enough to work with a brat like me.
I'm not a kid anymore...
...but I can see it for myself.
Skill, huh? I'm not as flashy as I was before...
The other day, a girl I was going out with... She cut her wrists.

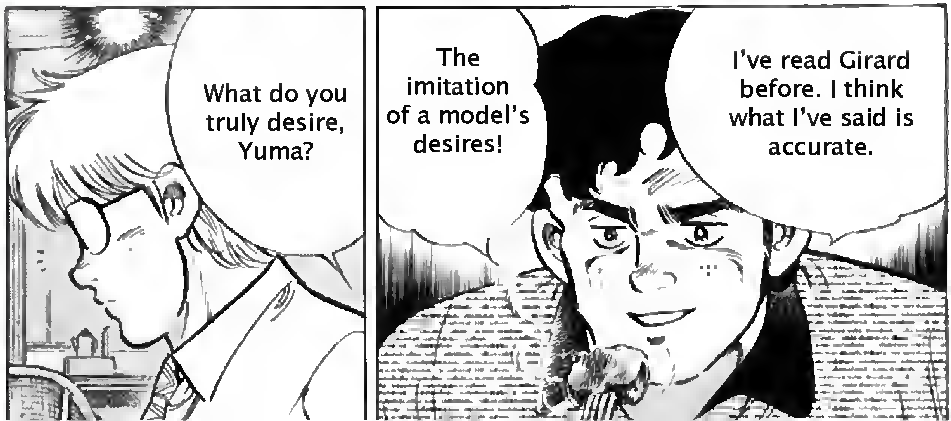
I guess people ...
SSSS
But it's like... that really did it for me.
It wasn't fatal, but...
I've been wondering about that for a while.
Wait, Otoya.
...need to experience hell in order to grow...
But I think you're thinking about it all wrong.
You told me once that you were driving me to madness.
!
You're simply imitating a model, that's all!
In the words of René Girard...
In what way?
Huh.

Should you direct a tragedy?
That's right.
Imita-ting a model ...?
I can't imagine that such as experience would be one you could call genuine, or one that could change you.
...it just ends up being a simulation for your own self-satisfaction.
You direct a tragedy aimlessly ...
...and once you experience that...
...get it at all, do you?
You don't...
A lifestyle without a model. How many such lifestyles do you think exist in this world?


When something like that happens, you'd react the same way a character did in a TV drama you once saw. Wouldn't you?
Am I wrong?
In this information society, how many genuinely new experiences do you think we'll come across?
Say if someone close to you was in an accident, or your neighbor's house burned down...
SIZZ


Can you really say you have zero experience in those matters?
Think of how many men and women went and had extramarital affairs in a time when such affairs were popular.
HUFF
HUFF
Isn't that then, something you've already experienced?

...for us ordinary people, whether you're imitating a model or whatever, you're simulating a life, and you live and change according to that simulation.
It may be different if you're one of a handful of eccentric geniuses out there, but...


What do you truly desire, Yuma?
The imitation of a model's desires!
I've read Girard before. I think what I've said is accurate.

...
Not "I wanna be like that guy," or...
"I wanna live like that guy..."
Without referring to a particular model, what do YOU truly desire from the bottom of YOUR heart?
Come on, tell me.
When it comes to F1, there aren't any drivers out there that are dumb enough that their only true desire is to drive fast.
They all want to be like Jackie Stewart, or like Niki Lauda.
That was a childish delusion that I rid myself of.
Then I became an adult. And quick, too.
Didn't you consider yourself a genius?
Desire, huh?
I see.

FWOOH

Who is that in front of me!?
N-Nobody gets...

Who is that!?

Nobody...
なんのびて
メリコリコリ
He's a bad drunk, like he's always been...
Well, good night.
KACHUK
...in front of me!
See you tomor-row.
Yeah. Good night.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
...
"F" Volume 21 THE END

F VOL.21

Author
ROKUDA NOBORU

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